

## INSIDE TODAY

## WORLD NEWS

### DRUG SWEEP



The hands of an alleged drug dealer are handcuffed during his arrest at a public housing complex in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, Friday July 9, 2010. Hundreds of U.S. drug agents and Puerto Rican police swept through public housing projects on the island's west coast in an attempt to dismantle drug trafficking gangs and reduce crime in Mayaguez.

Read more on Page A7

## SPORTS NEWS

### HEAT SEEKER



This is a photograph of the front page of the July 9, 2010 Cleveland Plain Dealer, which hit news stands Friday, the morning after Cleveland Cavaliers NBA basketball star LeBron James announced that he would be signing a contract for the upcoming season to join the Miami Heat.

Read more on Page A13

**Price of a barrel of petroleum**

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The Discoverer Enterprise drilling vessel works to remove oil gushing from the sea floor at the Deepwater Horizon oil spill site in the Gulf of Mexico on Saturday, June 26, 2010.

Associated Press

## New cap, ships could contain Gulf of Mexico leak by Monday

TOM BREEN,

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The federal official leading the Gulf oil spill cleanup said Friday a new containment cap and an additional ship collecting oil could effectively contain the spill in the next three days.

The work to replace a leaky containment cap on the well head with a tighter one will begin Saturday, National Incident Commander Thad Allen said. At the same time, a ship connecting to a different part of the leak is expected to come online Sunday.

Oil will flow unimpeded into the Gulf during the cap switch for at least part of the weekend.

If all goes according to plan, the combination of the cap and the new vessel could collect all the leaking oil by Monday, stopping it from escaping into the Gulf of Mexico for the first time since April 20.

"I use the word 'contained,'" Allen said.

"'Stop' is when we put the plug in down below."

Work continues on what officials hope will be the final plugging of the well — drilling on two relief wells through which mud and cement will be pumped to stop the leak once

and for all. That's expected to happen sometime in mid-August.

The new containment cap is expected to form a better seal over the well head, to allow more of the oil to be collected and sent up to ships on the surface for collection or burning.

"Technically it's pretty achievable," Allen said. He said if the new cap can't be placed on the well, the old cap will be put back and there are multiple backup caps available in case any one cap fails.

The new, tighter cap should be in place early Monday. Allen said the ship Helix Producer, which is to be hooked to a different part of the leaking well — lower than the new cap — will start collecting oil Sunday and be fully operational Tuesday. He has previously said that the full system should be able to collect 60,000 to 80,000 barrels a day.

The schedule for both efforts has been accelerated to take advantage of what could be a rare window of good weather. The hookup of the Helix Producer was delayed this week by poor weather. But an unexpected break in weather patterns creating choppy seas

provides a window of a week or so with waves of less than 2 feet.

"Everybody agrees we got the weather to do what we need," he said.

Containing the leak is not the same as stopping the environmental catastrophe that began April 20 when the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded, killing 11 workers. The relief wells remain the best option for a final plug to the leak, at which point cleanup and restoration become the main focus.

Though officials said the first relief well could be finished by the end of July, weeks ahead of schedule, they are quick to point out that such an optimistic timetable would require ideal conditions every step of the way.

That is something that has rarely happened since the leak began. □



People view the salvaging of an amphibious craft from the Delaware River in Philadelphia, Friday, July 9, 2010.

Associated Press

## Duck boat, 2 bodies pulled from Philly river

GEOFF MULVIHILL,  
MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press Writers

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Police retrieved a second body Friday from the Delaware River after they recovered the tour boat that was struck by a barge and capsized, leaving two young Hungarians missing. Authorities did not immediately confirm whether the body was that of 20-year-old Szabolcs Prem. He has been missing since Wednesday's accident, which also claimed the life of 16-year-old Dora Schwendtner. Her body was recovered early Friday nearly two miles (three kilometers) downriver from the accident site. The second body surfaced from beneath a salvage barge after crews raised the amphibious "duck boat" from the river bottom and the barge began hauling it away.

Continued on Page 5

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# GOP leaders let demagogues set tone, lawmaker says



In this June 22, 2010, file photo, South Carolina congressional candidate Bob Inglis speaks to the media after his loss in the runoff election to Trey Gowdy in Greenville, S.C. Too many Republican leaders are acquiescing to a poisonous "demagoguery" that threatens the party's long-term credibility, says a Inglis, who was defeated in South Carolina's primary last month.

Associated Press

By BEN EVANS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON – Too many Republican leaders are acquiescing to a poisonous "demagoguery" that threatens the party's long-term credibility, says a veteran GOP House member who was defeated in South Carolina's primary last month.

While not naming names, 12-year incumbent Rep. Bob Inglis suggested in interviews with The Associated Press that tea party favorites such as former vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin and right-wing talk show hosts like Glenn Beck are the culprits.

He cited a claim made famous by Palin that the Democratic health care bill would create "death panels" to decide whether elderly or sick people should get care.

"There were no death panels in the bill ... and to encourage that kind of fear is just the lowest form of political leadership. It's not leadership. It's demagoguery," said Inglis, one of three Republican incumbents who have lost their seats in Congress to primary and state party convention challengers this year.

Inglis said voters eventually will discover that you're "preying on their fears" and turn away.

"I think we have a lot of leaders that

are following those (television and talk radio) personalities and not leading," he said. "What it takes to lead is to say, 'You know, that's just not right.'"

Inglis said the rhetoric also distracts from the real problems that politicians should be trying to resolve, such as budget deficits and energy security.

"It's a real concern, because I think what we're doing is dividing the country into partisan camps that really look a lot like Shia and Sunni," he said, referring to the two predominant Islamic denominations that have feuded for centuries. "It's very difficult to come together to find solutions."

Inglis' refusal to join in on the Obama-bashing of the far right played a big role in his landslide defeat on June 22. Leading up to the election, he frequently challenged voters who questioned the president's citizenship or patriotism. At one town hall meeting, he was jeered for saying that Beck, a Fox News Channel host, is a divisive fearmonger.

In his primary runoff against prosecutor Trey Gowdy, Inglis failed to break 30 percent, an improbably low result for a sitting incumbent not embroiled in scandal.

Inglis said he was shocked during the

health care votes as he watched protesters jeering Rep. John Lewis, a Georgia Democrat who was beaten as a leading civil rights activist in the 1960s.

Inglis said he was too far away during the jeering incident to hear whether the protesters shouted racial epithets, as Lewis and other black lawmakers have claimed. But Inglis said the behavior was threatening and abusive.

"I caught him at the door and said, 'John, I guess you've been here before,'" Inglis said.

Inglis, 50, who calls himself a Jack Kemp disciple because he has emphasized outreach to minorities as the late Republican congressman did, thinks racism is a part of the vitriol directed at President Barack Obama.

"I love the South. I'm a Southerner. But I can feel it," he said.

Inglis was first elected in 1992 and left after six years to honor a term-limits pledge. But he won the seat again in 2004. He doesn't yet know what he'll do when he leaves Congress in January. He said it's unlikely he'll run for office again, but he didn't rule it out.

"It's hard to see how it works for me," he said. "But things change, and maybe something changes here." □



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# East and West with speed; super-efficient spy swap

JENNIFER LOVEN

AP White House

Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — It took less than month for the largest U.S.-Russian spy swap since the Cold War to unfold from an idea secretly hatched in the Oval Office to reality on a remote stretch of Vienna airport tarmac.

The whirlwind exchange took place Friday in a choreographed script of spy novel intrigue. Two planes, one from New York, the other from Moscow, arrived within minutes of each other and parked nose-to-tail. Their passengers — 10 Russian sleeper agents arrested in the U.S. and four prisoners accused by Russia of spying for the West — were ferried to each other, and the planes departed again just as quickly.

The whole thing, a soundless drama seen only at a distance through camera lenses, took less than an hour and a half — displaying the efficiency of this extraordinary new chapter in U.S.-Russian relations.

The 10 Russian agents who had blended into U.S. communities, including Anna Chapman, the woman who had caught Americans' fancy with her Facebook photos, soon landed in Moscow. And four other Russians accused of spying for the West headed the other way, two of them arriving at Dulles International Airport outside Washington at the end of the capital's workday.

Their chartered aircraft, a maroon-and-white Boeing 767-200, had stopped briefly at a southern England air base, where a U.S. official said two of the four were dropped off before the plane continued across the Atlantic.

The swap idea was Washington's, first raised with President Barack Obama nearly a month ago when the FBI and Justice Department officials who had been watching the 10 Russian agents hiding in suburban America for over a decade informed the president it was time to start planning their arrests, according to two White House officials, who spoke on



A plane, believed to be carrying prisoners held by Russia as spies for the West, arrives at Dulles International Airport in Chantilly Va., Friday, July 9, 2010.

Associated Press

condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House.

What was known as "the illegals program" had been first brought to the White House's attention months before, in February, triggering weeks of meetings about how and when to proceed, the officials said.

It became clear in early June that at least two of the Russians were making plans to leave the U.S., meaning the whole operation now had to be rolled up more quickly than originally thought.

The timing of the arrests was deliberated with Obama on that June 11 Friday afternoon in the Oval Office, along with the expected charges for the individuals and the potential impact on Washington's freshly "reset" relationship with its former Cold War rival. Also considered, the officials said, was the matter of what should happen afterward. One of the recommendations was to propose a swap to Russia.

The arrests were not planned to facilitate such a trade, said a separate U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss matters of intelligence. But since the Russian agents had never penetrated the U.S. government, it seemed Washington could benefit more from using them for barter than as prisoners to be locked up for years.

The president approved.

Thirteen days later, Obama

hosted Russian President Dmitry Medvedev at the White House for the first time, the two chummy over hamburgers in nearby Arlington, Va., and showing off a rapport to reporters that would have been unthinkable during the nations' diplomatic low points. But transparency goes only so far. Though preparations for the arrests were moving forward — and would take place just three days later — Obama kept quiet, the White House officials said.

At that point, White House aides and their counterparts from several agencies, including the CIA, FBI, Justice and the State Department, were meeting early every morning — "too early," complained one aide — via secure videoteleconference.

Shortly after the June 27 arrests, CIA Director Leon Panetta provided Russia's spy chief, Mikhail Fradkov, the names of four prisoners being held in Russia that the U.S. wanted to free, the officials said.

This was no dragged-out negotiation. By the following Saturday — the July 4 holiday weekend in the States and less than a week and three phone conversations after the arrests — Panetta and Fradkov, the head of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, had agreed to the deal by phone, the officials said.

A flurry of bureaucratic wrangling followed. Russia

required signed confessions from the four in order to make way for pardons from Medvedev. And court appearances and plea deals were hastily arranged in the U.S. for the Russians.

One U.S. condition of the swap was that the deal not be accompanied by any retaliatory steps against Americans. The officials also said that Washington got

everything it asked for out of the case — emphasizing that the U.S. didn't ask for any prisoners beyond the four.

The officials also said that all of the children of the Russian spies had left the United States for Russia or were in the process on Friday of leaving. Both sets of prisoners were abruptly entering radically different lives.

The 10 Russian agents and their families traded ordinary but fictional American lives for the realities of modern Russia. And early indications were that the spy ring — which apparently uncovered little of value and were watched by the FBI for years — would not get a hero's welcome.

"They obviously were very bad spies if they got caught. They got caught, so they should be tried," said Sasha Ivanov, a businessman walking by a Moscow train station.

The four Russians accused of spying for the West, meanwhile, were sprung from dismal Russian prisons. But, facing separation from loved ones and homeland, it was unclear where any of them planned to settle. □

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Gay marriage supporter Steven Webster of Madison, Wis., listens as he and other supporters gather during a debate at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church on Friday, July 9, 2010 in Minneapolis. Delegates to the Presbyterian church's convention in Minneapolis voted Thursday for a more liberal policy on gay clergy but decided not to redefine marriage in their church constitution to include same-sex couples.

*Associated Press*

By DENISE LAVOIE couples federal benefits has  
AP Legal Affairs Writer been thrown out the window  
BOSTON – A key part of in Massachusetts, the first  
a law denying married gay state to legalize gay marriage.

## White House silent on Mass.gay marriage ruling

The ball now lies in the White House's court, which must carefully calculate the next move by an administration that has faced accusations it has not vigorously defended the law of the land.

President Barack Obama has said repeatedly that he would like to see the federal Defense of Marriage Act, known as DOMA, repealed. But the Justice Department has defended the constitutionality of the law, which it is required to do.

The administration was silent Friday on whether it would appeal rulings by U.S. District Judge Joseph Tauro. Spokespeople for the White House and the Justice Department said officials are still reviewing the rulings.

DOMA defines marriage as between a man and a woman, prevents the federal government from recognizing gay marriages and allows states to deny recognition of same-sex unions performed elsewhere. Since the law passed in 1996, many states have instituted their own bans on gay marriage, and a handful have allowed the practice.

Tauro ruled Thursday in two separate cases that DOMA is unconstitutional because it interferes with the right of a state to define marriage and denies married gay couples an array of federal benefits given to heterosexual married couples, including health insurance and the benefits of filing joint tax returns.

The rulings apply only to Massachusetts, where same-

sex marriage has been legal since 2004. But gay marriage supporters are hoping the rulings could prompt other states to file their own challenges to DOMA and could also give momentum to a bill pending in Congress that would repeal the law.

Many opponents and proponents expect that the Obama administration to appeal the rulings to the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston, and that the question of whether the law is unconstitutional will eventually be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Many Obama voters, particularly among gays, will push for the administration not to appeal Tauro's rulings, said former Assistant Attorney General Robert Raben. But the administration could set a dangerous precedent if it does not continue to defend the law, he said.

"You want the Department of Justice to stop because you won a case; I understand that," said Raben, who worked at the department during the administration of President Bill Clinton, who signed DOMA into law.

"But you could have a conservative Department of Justice that won't enforce hate crimes, that won't enforce employment nondiscrimination acts, that won't enforce the Ryan White Act, that won't enforce all kinds of new protections for gays and lesbians because the attorney general doesn't agree with them. That's not a regime

you want to live in."

DOMA was enacted when it appeared Hawaii would soon legalize same-sex marriage and opponents worried that other states would be forced to recognize such marriages. Since 2004, five states — Connecticut, Iowa, New Hampshire and Vermont, in addition to Massachusetts — and the District of Columbia have legalized gay marriage. Some gay marriage opponents say that despite the Justice Department's legal obligations, it has purposely mounted a weak defense of the law.

"It's not surprising that this judge got it wrong, because a sham defense was put up by the Obama Justice Department," said Maggie Gallagher, chairman of the National Organization for Marriage. But state Attorney General Martha Coakley, who filed one of the legal challenges to DOMA, said the Justice Department "made their best arguments."

"We didn't think that this was anything other than a legitimate adversarial proceeding," Coakley said. During court hearings, a Justice Department lawyer argued before Tauro that the federal government has the right to set eligibility requirements for federal benefits, including requiring that those benefits go only to couples in marriages between a man and a woman. Another lawyer said the federal law does not interfere with the rights of individual states to "experiment in the area of marriage." □



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# Feds opening investigation into transit killing

GREG RISLING  
PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press Writers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— The U.S. Department of Justice's civil rights division will investigate a white transit officer already convicted of killing of an unarmed black man — a verdict that touched off angry protests and more than 80 arrests in Oakland.

In a case reminiscent of the racially charged 1992 videotaped police beating of a black motorist in Los Angeles, the federal government said it intends to investigate Johannes Mehserle, who was found guilty Thursday in state court of involuntary manslaughter in the death of 22-year-old Oscar Grant.

Mehserle faces a range of possible sentences — from probation to 14 years in prison. The federal investigation could expose him to even more prison time if the Department of Justice charges him with violating the rights of Grant. Two police officers convicted in federal court of similar rights violations in the Rodney King beating in 1992 were each sentenced to 2 1/2 years

in prison. Any possible federal prison sentence for Mehserle likely would be served after his state term.

At least a dozen businesses on Oakland were damaged after the jury reached its verdict in Los Angeles.

Protesters looted a Foot Locker store and ransacked a jewelry store. The windows of a bank were smashed, fires were set fires in several trash bins, and a small incendiary device was detonated near a police station but caused no damage.

Police said they made 83 arrests throughout the night for violations that included failure to disperse, vandalism and assaulting a police officer.

Graffiti on one building declared, "Oakland is our amusement park tonight!" Cleaning crews began sweeping up broken glass and debris early Friday.

"This city is not the wild, wild West," Oakland Police Chief Anthony Batts said. "This city will not tolerate this sort of activity."

The trial of Mehserle was moved to Los Angeles following rioting in Oakland after Grant was killed on New

Year's Day 2009. The latest demonstrations appeared to be much less severe, even though police did not immediately release a damage estimate.

Federal officials planned to begin their civil rights investigation after the conclusion of the state case against Mehserle, who faces sentencing Aug. 6.

Involuntary manslaughter convictions call for two to four years in prison. But since the jury also found Mehserle used a gun during the crime, the judge could tack on an additional three to 10 years — an option Oakland officials hope would quell additional unrest in the city.

The judge also the option of tossing out the gun enhancement, though experts say that seems unlikely.



A protestor breaks a window at Sears during a demonstration in Oakland, Calif., after a guilty verdict for Johannes Mehserle, Thursday, July 8, 2010. Former San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit police officer Johannes Mehserle was found guilty in Los Angeles for shooting unarmed black man Oscar Grant on New Year's Day 2009 at a BART station in Oakland.

Associated Press

Mehserle had testified that he on a Bay Area Rapid Transit platform, not his service stun gun when he shot Grant revolver. □

## DUCK BOAT

Continued from Front Page

A police boat pulled the body on board about a block downriver from where it surfaced.

Thirty-five other people were rescued after the 250-foot (75-meter) barge ran over the duck boat.

Schwendtner's body was identified judging from possessions shown to her fellow tourists, said Jeff Moran, a spokesman for the Philadelphia medical examiner. An autopsy showed she died of drowning, and her death has been ruled accidental.

The boat was lifted from the water Friday afternoon about 100 yards (90 meters) from shore by a crane using two heavy yellow straps. A third strap was looped around the white boat as it remained in the water, its canopy and seats above the waterline. Police and Coast Guard vessels surrounded the boat as it emerged from the water and was placed on a barge. Authorities plan to inspect it for clues to why it stalled out.

The duck boat will be taken first to the Coast Guard station in Philadelphia and then moved to another secure location, said Coast Guard Chief Rodger Krass.

The Norcross, Georgia-based company that owns the duck boats operation said Thursday it had followed safety recommendations after a 1999 sinking in Arkansas, but it still suspended its operations nationwide.

Schwendtner and Prem were among 13 Hungarian students, two Hungarian teachers, four U.S. students and three U.S. teachers on a tour hosted by Marshallton United Methodist Church in suburban Philadelphia.

Black flags were raised at the victims' school and at city hall in their hometown of Mosonmagyaróvár in northwestern Hungary on Friday. School principal Karoly Hansagi told the Hungarian news agency MTI that a candlelight vigil would be held Saturday night in memory of the students. □

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# Suicide bombs kill 62 in Pakistan tribal area

NAHAL TOOSI  
RIAZ KHAN

Associated Press Writers

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — A pair of suicide bombings killed 62 people Friday outside a government office in a region along the Afghan border where the Pakistani army and U.S. missiles have had some success in decreasing the number of such attacks.

The assault, which wounded at least 111 people, was one of the deadliest in Pakistan this year. There was speculation that the bombers were targeting anti-Taliban tribal elders visiting the government office in the village of Yakaghund, part of the Mohmand tribal area in the country's northwest.

The attackers struck within seconds of each other as two U.S. senators met with Pakistani leaders in the capital, Islamabad, to discuss their countries' cooperation in the fight against terrorism, much of it being waged in the lawless tribal belt bordering Afghanistan where al-Qaida and the Taliban have long had redoubts.

One of the bombs appeared fairly small but the other was huge, officials said. At least one bomber was on a motorcycle.

The bombers detonated their explosives near the office of Rasool Khan, a deputy Mohmand administrator who escaped unharmed. The tribal elders, including those involved in setting up militias to fight the Taliban, were in the building, but none was hurt, according to Mohmand chief administrator Amjad Ali Khan.

Video footage showed dozens of men searching through piles of yellow brick and mud rubble for survivors. Women and children were among the victims.



People gather near the site of the suicide bombing in Yakaghund in Pakistani tribal area of Mohmand on Friday, July 9, 2010. A suicide bomber on a motorcycle struck outside a government office Friday in a tribal region where Pakistan's army has fought the Taliban, killing scores of people and left many injured, officials said.

Abdul Wadood, 19, was sitting in a vehicle at the time of the bombings.

"I only heard the deafening blast and lost consciousness," said Wawood, who was being treated for head and arm wounds in Peshawar, the main city in the northwest, about 15 miles (25 kilometers) away. "I found myself on a hospital bed after opening my eyes. I think those who planned or carried out this attack are not humans."

Some 70 to 80 shops were damaged or destroyed, while damage to a prison building allowed 28 prisoners — ordinary criminals, not militants — to flee, said Rasool Khan, who gave the casualty figures.

Near the attack site, officials had been distributing wheelchairs to disabled people and equipment to poor farmers, Amjad Ali Khan said. It was unclear how many participants in that event were among the victims.

Khan disputed reports that the aid was provided through U.S. funding, saying it came from Pakistani government funds.

However, U.S. Embassy spokesman Rick Snelsire confirmed that on the previous day Pakistani staff from a Washington-based contractor that receives USAID money had been giving out farm equipment in the village. The staff of that contractor, AED or Academy for Educational Development, were staying in the area, but were not believed to have been the targets Friday, Snelsire said.

Pakistani Taliban spokesmen could not be immediately reached after the attack. There were scattered reports that the militant group's branch in Mohmand had claimed responsibility and said it was targeting the elders.

Mohmand is one of several areas in Pakistan's lawless tribal belt where Taliban and al-Qaida members are believed to be hiding. The Pakistani army has carried out operations in Mohmand, but it has been unable to extirpate the militants. Its efforts to rely on citizen militias to take on the militants have had limited success there.

Nevertheless, there have

been fewer attacks in Pakistan this year than in previous years — most notably in the northwest. In the last three months of 2009, more than 500 people were killed in a surge of attacks in the country.

Although information from the tribal belt is difficult to verify independently, the Pakistani army's operations and U.S. missile strikes are believed to have calmed the situation since then.

The attacks that have occurred in 2010 have inflicted large numbers of casualties.

On New Year's Day, a suicide car bomber struck a sports event near a meeting of tribesmen who supervise an anti-Taliban militia near the South Waziristan tribal area. At least 96 people were confirmed dead.

Some of the worst attacks in 2010 have taken place far from the northwest, in cities such as Karachi in the south and Lahore in eastern Punjab province.

Still, the main bases of militant groups in Pakistan are believed to be in the northwest, particularly the tribal regions, which have semiautonomous status and

where the government has long had little influence.

Washington is watching closely how Pakistan handles its militant crisis, pushing the South Asian country to wage war on Taliban and al-Qaida fighters who use its territory to plan attacks against Western troops in Afghanistan.

U.S. Sens. Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate's Armed Services Committee, and Jack Reed, a committee member, visited Pakistani officials in Islamabad on Friday. In a statement issued after his meeting with the American lawmakers, Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said both countries should try harder to increase mutual trust.

He said Pakistan was doing its utmost to combat militancy, and "expected friendly countries like (the) U.S. to share with it credible and actionable information rather than indulging in blame game, in order to achieve our shared and common goal of succeeding against militancy."

Over the past decade Pakistan and the U.S. have frequently questioned each other's motives in the region.

Pakistan has been suspected of fomenting problems in Afghanistan as part of its regional struggle with India, while Islamabad has suggested that Washington gives favorable treatment to New Delhi in areas such as nuclear armament.

In a reference to its larger archrival, Gilani said the U.S. should take a "fair and nondiscriminatory approach ... in its relations with the regional countries."

In recent visits to Pakistan, U.S. officials have stressed that the relationship between the two countries has improved. □



# More than 150 sought in Puerto Rico drug operation

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Roughly 500 U.S. drug agents and Puerto Rican police swept through public housing projects at dawn Friday on the island's west coast in what officials described as the largest operation of its kind in the American territory.

Authorities had arrest warrants for 158 people and hoped to seize more than \$1 million in property in an attempt to dismantle drug trafficking gangs and reduce crime in Mayaguez during the upcoming Central American and Caribbean Games, said Special Agent Waldo Santiago, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration spokesman.

Nearly 90 arrests had been made by late Friday and police and agents were still pursuing the rest of the suspects. The special agent in charge of the DEA's Caribbean division, Javier F. Pena, said the operation caught the "most hardcore and violent traffickers terrorizing this part of the island."

The DEA brought agents from throughout the Caribbean to assist Puerto Rican police in making the arrests and searches in a coastal area

known as an entry point for cocaine and other drugs from the Dominican Republic, across the Mona Passage.

Many of the arrests targeted drug operations in public housing complexes near schools and sports facilities that will be used at the upcoming games, which feature about 600 athletes from about 33 countries and will bring thousands of visitors to Mayaguez. The games start July 17.

Drug traffickers in Puerto Rico exploit public housing projects, many of them fenced off from surrounding communities, as key distribution points for cocaine and heroin.

Santiago said Puerto Rican police intend to "assume control" of six public housing complexes to help prevent violence during the games.

As a U.S. territory, Puerto Rico is a favored transshipment point for South American drugs bound for the U.S. mainland. Some of the drugs are consumed locally and authorities blame the Caribbean island's soaring homicide rate largely on feuds between rival drug rings. □

# New Slovak president appoints government

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) — Slovakia's president appointed a new center-right government Friday, led by the country's first female prime minister.

Iveta Radicova, deputy chairman of the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union, leads a four-party coalition that holds 79 seats in the 150-seat Parliament after June 12 elections.

Her party teamed up with the Christian Democrats, the pro-business Freedom and Solidarity and a party of ethnic Hungarians.

The four parties — previously in the opposition — have pledged to improve Slovakia's business environment, reduce the deficit and fight corruption. Among the 13 ministers is former Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda — Radicova's party chairman — whose free-market reforms earned the country NATO and EU membership. Dzurinda has become the



**Iveta Radicova, leader of the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union-Democratic Party, looks on after announcement of exit polls after the general elections in Bratislava, Slovakia, Saturday, June 12, 2010.**

*Associated Press.*

new foreign minister. His Finance Minister Ivan Miklos has taken over the post again.

Radicova, who served as Labor Minister under Dzurinda, led the party in the election.

Last year, she ran for the presidency but Ivan Gasparovic defeated her in the runoff.

One of the new government's first tasks will be to vote on the country's participation in a 750 billion euro (\$1 trillion) rescue fund agreed by EU leaders in May.

The fund is aimed at soothing jittery markets by creating a financial backstop for euro states that risk default. Slovakia's share is one percent. □



**SWAT police arrive to conduct an anti-drug raid at a public housing complex in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, Friday July 9, 2010. Hundreds of U.S. drug agents and Puerto Rican police swept through public housing projects on the island's west coast in an attempt to dismantle drug trafficking gangs and reduce crime in Mayaguez, the host city of the XXI Central American and Caribbean Games that will be inaugurated on July 17.**

*Associated Press*

# Betancourt seeks \$6.8 million for kidnapping

VIVIAN SEQUERA

*Associated Press Writer*

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Former hostage Ingrid Betancourt has asked Colombia's government to pay her \$6.8 million for damages she suffered during six years in rebel captivity.

The request was made public Friday by the government, which expressed surprise and consternation.

Betancourt was kidnapped in February 2002 by leftist guerrillas while campaigning for president in Colombia's south, a longtime rebel stronghold.

She was among 15 captives — including three Americans — rescued in 2008 by Colombia's military in an elaborate ruse after months of preparation. Betancourt, 48, did not respond to e-mails seeking an explanation of her request, which was filed with the Defense Ministry on June 30 and sought the payment not just for Betancourt but also for her two children, mother and sister.

Betancourt, a Franco-Colombian who now divides her time between New York and Paris, was in Colombia last week for a reunion of rescued hostages on the second anniversary of her liberation.

Colombia's Defense Ministry issued a statement Friday expressing "surprise" and "sorrow." It said Betancourt



**Ingrid Betancourt stands during a ceremony marking the second anniversary of Operation Jaque, the military rescue in which Betancourt, a former Colombian presidential candidate, was freed along with over a dozen hostages that had been held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in Bogota, Friday July 2, 2010. She holds a card with the name of a persona who is among those still in captivity.**

*Associated Press*

has no grounds to hold the state responsible and recalled that shortly after she was freed, she described the bloodless operation to rescue her as "perfect."

It also noted that Betancourt, before she was kidnapped, "did not heed the insistent recommendations of security forces and other authorities" not to travel to the area where she was seized by the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. □





A US military vehicle burns after it was hit by a blast in Jalalabad, east of Kabul, Friday, July 9, 2010. Afghan official said that a suicide car bomb hit the convoy and that one person was killed and nine were wounded. A NATO spokeswoman confirmed an explosion hit a coalition convoy but said she had been told it was a homemade bomb, not a suicide attacker.

**KAY JOHNSON**

Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — NATO took the blame on Friday for accidentally killing six civilians and wounding several others in eastern

Afghanistan — just a day after five Afghan soldiers died in a botched coalition airstrike.

The back-to-back incidents come as international troops are trying to gain the trust of the Afghan people and

*Associated Press*

# NATO accepts blame for killing 6 Afghan civilians

improve coordination with Afghan security forces in hopes of handing over more responsibility for security to them nearly nine years into the war.

NATO said an assessment team, comprising both coalition and Afghan forces, determined that the civilians were killed when artillery fire fell short of its target Thursday in Jani Khel district of Paktia province. A full investigation is under way.

Initially, the coalition reported that eight Afghan civilians had been injured and taken to a nearby NATO outpost for treatment, and that one subsequently died. Later, it was determined that the bodies of those killed had been removed before NATO units arrived on the scene following the errant rounds, NATO said in a statement.

During the past two days, Afghan and NATO leaders have had meetings with local elders and community leaders in Jani Khel to discuss the incident. NATO officials “offer sincere condolences to those affected and accept full responsibility for the actions that led to this tragic incident,” the coalition said in a statement.

The five Afghan soldiers were killed and two others were wounded Wednesday in an airstrike in the Andar district of Ghazni province.

The Afghan soldiers were launching an ambush before dawn against insurgents reportedly on the move when NATO aircraft began firing on them without warning, Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi said.

The international force in Afghanistan blamed the friendly fire attack on a communication error. A coalition statement, also issued on Friday, said a joint investigation determined that the Afghan army unit gave the wrong location to international forces when it reported it would be operating in Ghazni. When a coalition helicopter patrol noticed people digging

beside a road where makeshift mines were a problem, the crew was cleared for an airstrike because the headquarters believed the Afghan soldiers were in another area of the province, NATO said.

Separately, Two NATO service members, including one American, died Friday in two different roadside bombs in the south, and an explosion ripped into a convoy of NATO and Afghan forces in an eastern province, killing one civilian and wounding nine others. President Barack Obama has sent 30,000 more American troops to Afghanistan to carry out the war’s counterinsurgency strategy, which focuses on securing the Afghan population and reversing Taliban gains. Violence is on the rise as troops ratchet up their pursuit of insurgent leaders.

Last month was the most deadly of the entire war for international troops, with 103 foreign forces killed.

While international forces patrol new areas to try to protect the population, their comrades in special forces, working with elite Afghan commandos, have been staging raids almost every night trying to weaken the insurgents’ operational capacity.

On Tuesday, coalition and Afghan special forces arrested a Taliban commander in the eastern province of Nangarhar, NATO said Friday.

The alliance said the man — whom it would not identify for security reasons — facilitated a recent influx of operatives for Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pakistani militia accused in the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks and suspected in a string of more recent attacks in Afghanistan. “Capturing this commander degrades the Taliban’s operational and facilitation capabilities,” said Col. William Maxwell, the director of the NATO-led international forces’ Combined Joint Operations.

Joint Afghan-international raids have led to the arrest of more than 100 Taliban figures

since April, NATO says. In the past two weeks alone, at least 23 mid- and senior-level insurgent leaders and 217 lower-level fighters have been captured or killed, it says.

“We’ve stepped up operations over the last six months,” said NATO spokesman Col. Wayne Shanks. “What this is, is directly targeting the insurgent network, their leadership, their facilitators who bring in either weapons, supplies, money, resources.”

The campaign against the Taliban leadership echoes a strategy used successfully against both Sunni and Shiite insurgents in Iraq.

One senior Taliban commander recently killed was Ghulam Sakhi, who NATO said was a bomb-making specialist in Logar province who was also behind kidnapping plots, including the abduction and killing of the provincial security chief.


Afghan and coalition forces surrounded a compound he was sleeping in on June 25 and used a bullhorn to urge him to surrender. According to NATO, Sakhi emerged dressed as a woman and fired a pistol at the forces. He was shot and killed.

In the northern province of Kunduz, combined forces killed a Taliban weapons expert called Usman on June 27. NATO said he was a senior insurgent figure who also helped bring in fighters from Pakistan.

A suicide car bomb hit a NATO convoy Friday in the eastern province of Nangarhar, provincial spokesman Ahmad Zaiya Abdulzai said. One civilian died and nine were wounded in the attack near a bridge outside Jalalabad, the provincial capital. Photos from the scene show a coalition armored vehicle in flames, but NATO said no casualties among its troops were reported. A coalition spokeswoman said she had been told the convoy hit a homemade bomb.


In Ghazni province in the east, gunmen assassinated a prosecutor Friday morning. □

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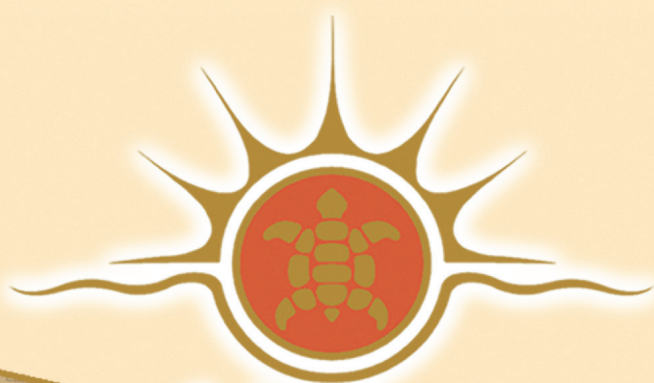
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## Police: 'Barefoot Bandit' may have fled Bahamas

MIKE MELIA

Associated Press Writer

MARSH HARBOUR, Bahamas (AP) — A fugitive U.S. teenager who has successfully eluded teams of local police and FBI agents may have slipped off the island where he allegedly crash-landed a stolen plane nearly a week ago, police said Friday.

Authorities are investigating a report that Colton Harris-Moore, dubbed the "Barefoot Bandit," has fled Great Abaco Island and was spotted on Eleuthera, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) to the south, two police officials said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly on the search. Bahamian National Security Minister Tommy Turnquest declined to comment.

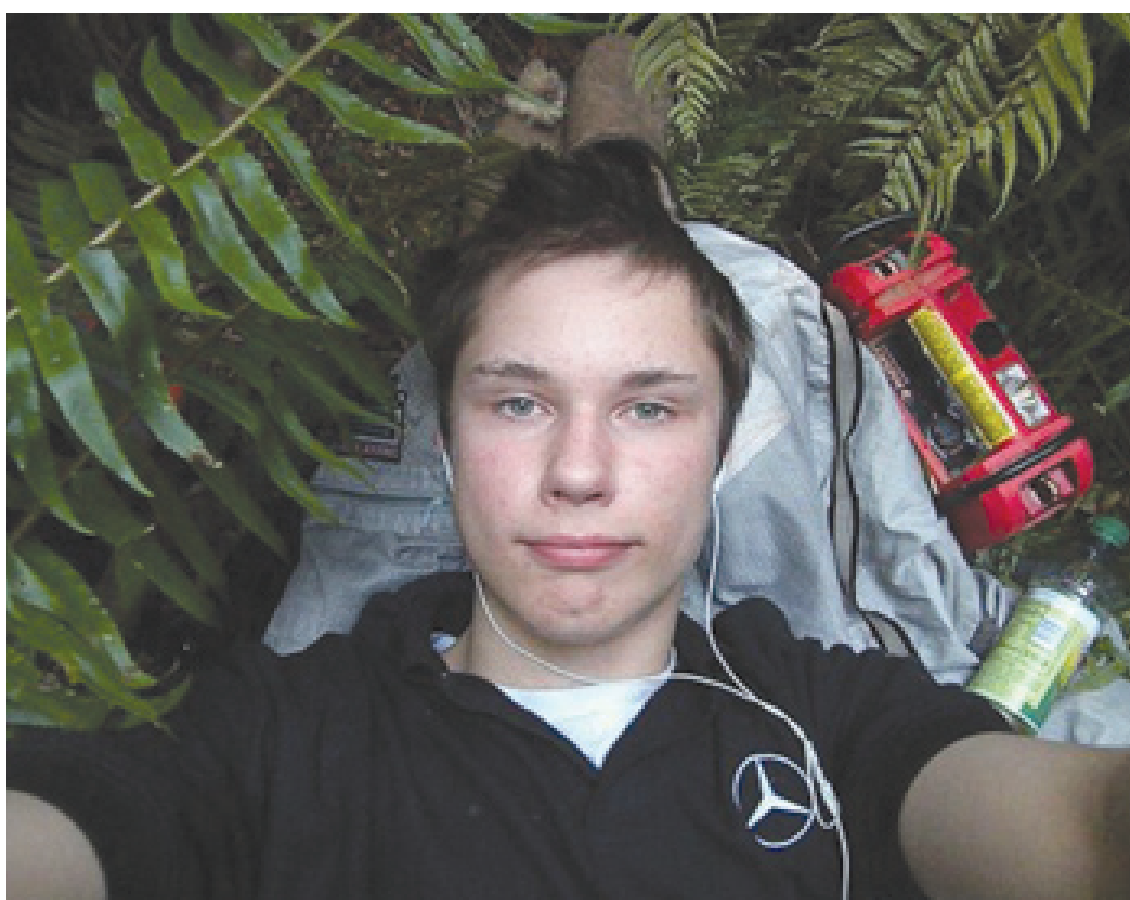
It was unclear how the 19-year-old fugitive might have escaped the island, but a powerboat was stolen in Marsh Harbour.

The 44-foot (13-meter) boat was reported missing Thursday from the marina on Great Abaco Island, said Harry Mountain, a regional manager for The Moorings

hotel and marina resort in Marsh Harbour. Investigators have been searching the 120-mile-long, (190-kilometer-long) boomerang-shaped island for Harris-Moore since he allegedly crash-landed a stolen plane in a marsh at its southern tip Sunday. Working with the FBI, island soldiers and police have also been patrolling ports and airports to cut off potential escape routes for the wily convict, accused of dozens of burglaries in the U.S.

The marina where the boat was stolen is next door to a restaurant, Curly Tails, where the teen was allegedly caught on surveillance footage during a break-in about 4 a.m. Tuesday. Police were investigating at least six other burglaries stretching from the island's southern point to Marsh Harbour, a town of about 5,500 people.

About a dozen boats are stolen from the area each year, mostly by drug traffickers who target those with powerful outboard engines, said boat renter Tim Roberts. The latest theft, however, involved a cruiser with an inboard engine — a boat resembling one which Harris-Moore allegedly stole



This July 2009 file self-portrait provided by the Island County Sheriff's Office shows Colton Harris-Moore, the so-called "Barefoot Bandit". Police were hunting across a tourist island Tuesday July 6, 2010 for signs of a pilot who vanished after wrecking a small plane in the Bahamas and investigators in the U.S. turned their suspicions toward an American teenager on the run dubbed "the Barefoot Bandit." The single-engine Cessna that crashed in shallow waters off Abaco island was apparently stolen from an airport in Bloomington, Indiana. By the time rescuers arrived on Sunday, nobody was inside.

Associated Press

while fleeing the law in the United States.

Harris-Moore, who grew up in the woods of Washington state's Camano Island, has been on the run since escaping from a halfway house more

than two years ago. The teen had several run-ins with police by the time he was 13 and is suspected of stealing cars, boats and at least five planes during his run, despite no formal flight training.

Harris-Moore earned the "Barefoot Bandit" nickname because he allegedly went shoeless for some of his crimes and once left behind chalk footprints as his calling card. □



# Come on, baby! Checker marks 50 years of the Twist



A member of the audience dances on stage with recording artist Chubby Checker during a concert celebrating the 50th anniversary of the release of the song, 'The Twist' in Philadelphia Friday July 9, 2010.

By JOANN LOVIGLIO, Associated Press Writer  
PHILADELPHIA — Fifty years to the day after the release of the hip-swiveling tune "The Twist," the man who made it famous celebrated the occasion in his hometown. Chubby Checker performed Friday at a free noontime concert at Philadelphia City Hall. About 1,000 people joined in on the gyrations, some even invited onstage by the South Philadelphia-bred singer. "The Twist," released as a single on July 9, 1960, burst into the rock 'n' roll stratosphere after Checker performed it for Dick Clark on his Philadelphia-based "American Bandstand."

(AP Photo/Jacqueline Larma)

Checker's 1960 cover version of the Hank Ballard and the Midnighters song — released a year earlier to mild success — became a smash hit and turned the dance into a pop culture touchstone. It remains the only single to reach No. 1 on the U.S. charts during two separate runs, in 1960 and again in 1962. The dance popularized couples dancing apart to the beat of the music, a revolutionary idea that's now the norm, Checker said. "When you're on the floor dancing to Lady Gaga, Chubby Checker is there," he said. The trim 68-year-old singer, clad in a denim jacket and skintight jeans, performed some of his other dance-

craze hits including "The Fly," "Pony Time" and "The Hucklebuck," a dance with some suggestive hip thrusts that Checker executed with ease.

"Back in the 60s, you couldn't do the hucklebuck because it was nasty," Checker told the crowd. "It's 2010; everything's nasty, so we're going to do it."

Checker brought groups of fans onstage throughout the concert. Ages, sizes and senses of rhythm varied widely, but no one was short of enthusiasm.

He also sang a medley of other singers' hits from the era, from Chuck Berry and Little Richard to The Beatles' "I Saw Her Standing There." The finale, of course, was "The Twist," which kept the crowd going despite temperatures around 90 degrees.

"If you ain't moving to this, well, then, you've got to be dead," said Martin Jackson, 59, as he held his cell phone aloft so his sister in Washington, D.C., could listen in. "This is the 12-bar blues right here. That's what it's all about." □

# J-Lo cancels controversial north Cyprus show



FILE -- In an April 27, 2010 file photo actress Jennifer Lopez poses during a photo-call for the movie 'The Back-up Plan' in Madrid, on Tuesday, April 27, 2010.

(AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS, Associated Press Writer  
NICOSIA, Cyprus — Jennifer Lopez called off a controversial birthday show in the breakaway north of Cyprus, provoking celebrations Friday by Greek Cypriots while Turkish Cypriots denounced the move.

The furor over a luxury hotel

inauguration showed how easily bitter rivalry can flare up between Cypriots across the ethnic divide, even as the two sides are locked in fruitless peace talks.

Reports that Lopez would perform at a hotel in the breakaway Turkish north on her 41st birthday this month triggered a Greek Cypriot online campaign pushing for cancellation.

Greek Cypriots viewed Lopez's July 24 appearance as helping legitimize the Mediterranean island's violent division. Cyprus was split into a Greek speaking south and a Turkish speaking north in 1974 when Turkey invaded following a coup by supporters of union with Greece.

Turkish Cypriots declared an independent state in 1983 that is only recognized by Turkey, which maintains 35,000 troops there. Both sides have come closer in recent years, but hopes are fading that long-drawn peace talks can reach a reunification deal any time soon.

Cyprus joined the European Union in 2004, but the north remains out in the cold without direct flights or trade links with the outside world. An official at the Cratos Premium hotel near the northern coastal resort of Kyrenia told The Associated Press that Lopez had signed a contract to perform as part of opening celebrations and would have arrived "with her friends and family." Reports said Lopez would earn a \$3 million appearance fee. Attempts by the Associated Press to contact Lopez' publicist and confirm details of the New York-born star's appearance went unanswered. But a statement on the singer and actress' official website on Thursday said her advisers decided against her appearance after "a full review of the relevant circumstances in Cyprus." "Jennifer Lopez would never knowingly support any state, country, institution or regime that was associated with any form of human rights abuse," the statement said. □

## Haysbert Izzard tackle 'Race' on and off stage



FILE - This June 28, 2010 file photo shows actor Dennis Haysbert in New York. Haysbert makes his Broadway debut in the David Mamet play, 'Race.' 'Race' concerns black and white law firm partners and their associate who debate the merits of representing a wealthy white client accused of raping a young black woman. The play tackles the subject from various perspectives, including each attorney's view on ethnicity, public perception and the media's influence.

(AP Photo/Jeff Christensen, File)

By JOHN CARUCCI, Associated Press Writer  
NEW YORK — Eddie Izzard finds it bizarre that no one has ever gone to war over eye color.

"It's probably because you can't actually see the eyes until you're about here," he says while gesturing with his hand next to his face. "So that would make it impractical."

Izzard laughs, but is serious about what prompted the comment: the delicate topic of race. Now he gets to explore it eight times a week on Broadway in the appropriately titled David Mamet play, "Race." □

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# BUSINESS

## Aruba TODAY

### Stocks climb after Google wins license from China

By STEPHEN BERNARD  
and TIM PARADIS,  
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Stocks ended a big week with modest gains Friday after China renewed Google's license to operate in the country and traders awaited earnings reports due next week.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 59 points to push its gain for the week to 5.3 percent.

Broader indexes posted bigger gains, helped by Google's advance. Trading volume was light, signaling many investors were staying out of the market.

The renewal of Google's license was in doubt because of a strained relationship between the company and China's government over censorship of search results. Google rose 2.4 percent. News on the economy wasn't as upbeat. Inventories held by wholesalers rose in May for a fifth straight month though sales dropped for the first time in more than a year. The government said wholesale inventories rose 0.5 percent and sales dropped 0.3 percent. It was the first drop since March 2009, when major stock indexes hit a 12-year low.

The moderate buying came as

investors prepared for earnings reports that start next week. Traders often avoid making big bets just before earnings releases because the reports provide a good picture of how companies are performing. Investors will look closely at forecasts for future quarters because economic reports in the past two months have raised questions about the pace of the rebound.

"It's time to determine if this is just a soft patch in the recovery or if it's the beginning of a second leg down.

That's what the market is struggling with," said Dan Deming, a trader with Stutland



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York, June 30, 2010.

REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton

Equities in Chicago.

Investors will want to know whether companies are feeling

the effects of slower growth and whether corporations believe the recovery will gain momentum in the coming months. Stocks consistently fell over the past couple of months because data showed the economy was growing, but not as fast as had been forecast.

Earnings season starts with aluminum producer Alcoa Inc. on Monday. The company's stock rose 1.9 percent ahead of its report. Other companies scheduled to release results next week include banking giants JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Bank of America Corp. General Electric Co. and chipmaker Intel Corp. are also scheduled to report earnings next week.

Overseas markets rose after a surprise interest rate hike in South Korea was seen as a sign of confidence that the global economy will continue expand. Central banks around the world, including the U.S., have kept rates at historically low rates to stimulate growth. According to preliminary calculations, the Dow rose 59.04, or 0.6 percent, to 10,198.03. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 7.71, or 0.7 percent, to 1,077.96, while the technology-focused Nasdaq composite index rose 21.05, or 1 percent, to 2,196.45. □

### Wholesale inventories rise in May, sales fall

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER,  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Inventories held by wholesalers rose for a fifth consecutive month in May but sales fell for the first time in more than a year, sending a cautionary signal about the strength of the recovery.

Wholesale inventories increased 0.5 percent while sales dropped 0.3 percent, the Commerce Department said Friday. It was the first decline for sales since March of 2009.

The May sales decline is the latest sign that the economic recovery could be losing momentum in the second half of the year. Weakness in sales could discourage businesses from boosting their orders. That would translate into a slowdown in factory production.

Businesses helped spur the recovery by rebuilding their inventories after slashing them during the recession. The gross domestic product expanded at a 5.6 percent rate in the final three months of last year, largely because of the swing in inventories.

The trend in inventory rebuilding continued in the first quarter of this year, but at a more modest pace. That was among the reasons growth slowed to 2.7 percent.

Mike England, an economist with Action Economics, said Friday's wholesale inventories report has persuaded him to lower his growth estimate for the April-June quarter, to 2.8 percent from 3.3 percent. England noted that the report lowered April's inventory growth to a 0.2 percent increase — half the initial estimate of 0.4 percent.

But Peter Newland, an economist at Barclays Capital, said the drop in sales wasn't a major concern because the inventory to sales ratio remained near a record low. He said that should spur businesses to "continue to rebuild stock levels in coming months."

Many economists believe overall economic growth will slow



Costco customers look at various recorders at Costco in Mountain View, Calif., Wednesday, July 7, 2010. Inventories held by wholesalers rose for a fifth consecutive month in May but sales fell for the first time in more than a year, sending a mixed signal about the strength of the recovery.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

to around 2 percent in the second half of this year. That's partly because they expect less of a boost from inventory rebuilding in coming months.

That could be bad news for manufacturers, one of the strongest sectors since the recession ended.

It also would come as the recovery is starting to weaken. Both consumer spending and business hiring have slowed, and the housing market has struggled since government incentives for homebuyers ended in April.

The jobless rate fell to 9.5 percent in June from 9.7 percent in May. But the change was largely the result of people giving up their work searches.

Economists worry that weaker growth won't bring down the jobless rate quickly.

"We are on a muddle-through trajectory for this recovery with GDP growth at about half the rate you would normally see coming out of such a steep downturn," England said.

Even with the May gain in wholesale inventories, they are 2.1 percent below where they were a year ago. □



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

## Rain halts play at U.S. Women's Open

**ALAN ROBINSON,**  
AP Sports Writer  
OAKMONT, Pennsylvania (AP) — A relentless string of thunderstorms that began with 100 of the 156 golfers still to begin or complete the second round of the U.S. Women's Open caused play to be suspended at mid-afternoon on Friday.

Twenty-eight of the 31 golfers who were within three shots of the lead had played only a few holes or hadn't teed off.

Except for Cristie Kerr, the world's No. 1 player, and first-round leader Brittany Lang, who shared the not-very-crowded clubhouse lead at 1-over 143. Sophie Gustafson was at even par, but she had 17 holes left in her round.

Kerr finished her even-par 71 before the pelting rains flooded Oakmont Country Club's famed Church Pew bunkers and saturated its super-fast greens. Those greens were beginning to turn brown following four consecutive days of 90-degree F weather.

Lang slid from a first-round 69 to a 3-over 74 as temperatures went down but the scores didn't, with Christina Kim a shot back at 2-over 144 following successive 72s.

"We had a very dry course, and it can take a lot of rain," said the USGA's Mike Davis, who is confident that improving weather will allow the biggest event in women's golf to finish on schedule on Sunday.

But can Oakmont take a lot of Kerr? Especially now that she'll play probably less than a full round on

Saturday, rather than one full round and most of a second as many will?

Kerr was the undisputed favorite to win her second Women's Open in four years — she also won in 2007 — after winning the LPGA Championship two weeks ago by an unprecedented 12 shots. Only a week's break between majors gives her a chance to maintain her confidence and, arguably, the mental edge she owns over the other golfers.

*Continued on Page 14*



Morgan Pressel walks back to the clubhouse as play is suspended from a thunderstorm during the second round of the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament at Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont, Pa., Friday, July 9, 2010.

*Associated Press*

## Cavendish wins 6th stage of Tour



Mark Cavendish of Britain crosses the finish line to win the sixth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 141.4 miles with start in Montargis and finish in Gueugnon, France, Friday, July 9, 2010, ahead of Robbie Mc Ewen of Australia, left, who took a fourth place.

*Associated Press*

**JAMEY KEATEN**

Associated Press Writer

GUEUGNON, France (AP) — Mark Cavendish made it two straight Tour de France stage victories on Friday, leading a sprint for the line as the main title contenders finished in a closely trailing pack.

The 25-year-old native of Britain's Isle of Man raised his hands in celebration at the end of the hot, 141.3-mile sixth stage from Montargis to Gueugnon, which was mostly flat and favored sprinters.

The HTC Columbia sprinter earned his 12th career Tour stage victory and fifth in all races this year — clocking 5 hours, 37 minutes, 42 seconds to win ahead of U.S. rider Tyler Farrar and Alessandro Petacchi of Italy.

The victory comes a day after Cavendish broke down in tears after winning Stage 5, experiencing a sense of redemption after the talented sprinter failed to win a stage earlier in the race.

"I'm really happy.

I'm speaking better today because I was pretty emotional yesterday," Cavendish said.

The sprint attempt by Farrar suggested the Garmin-Transitions rider's condition has improved since breaking his left wrist in one of numerous crashes on rain-slicked roads in Monday's Stage 2.

"I'm still not 100 percent," Farrar said in French on French television. "Maybe I'm stupid not to stop after the break, but today I was feeling better."

Thor Hushovd of Norway, who wears the best sprinter's green jersey that Cavendish covets, finished 10th, and expressed disappointment that he wasn't able to keep up. He has 118 points in the green-jersey classification chase — only four more than Petacchi.

"If I want to win this jersey I can't continue like this," Hushovd said.

Under the rules of the UCI, the international cycling union, race organizers handed down fines of 200 Swiss francs (about \$190) against Spanish rider Carlos Barredo and Portugal's Rui Alberto Costa, who brawled with each other and tussled on the ground after the stage finish.

The main title contenders and the pack crossed three seconds after Cavendish. Defending champion Alberto Contador was 28th, seven-time champion Lance Armstrong was 38th, and overall race leader Fabian Cancellara was 41st.

The top standings didn't change: Swiss rider Cancellara retained the yellow jersey that he has worn everyday but one this year; Spaniard Contador stayed ninth overall; and Armstrong kept his 18th spot. Cadel Evans of Australia, a two-time Tour runner-up and the highest-placed potential title contender, is third — 39 seconds behind Cancellara. □



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# Cavs owner says LeBron James quit in playoffs

**TOM WITHERS**

**AP Sports Writer**

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Angered and betrayed by LeBron James' decision to leave for Miami, Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert accused the NBA's most valuable player of quitting during the playoffs. Gilbert, who posted a letter to Cavs fans on the team's website shortly after James announced his plans to sign with the Heat, told The Associated Press late Thursday night that it's "accountability time" for James.

"He has gotten a free pass," Gilbert said in a phone interview with The AP. "People have covered up for (James) for way too long. Tonight we saw who he really is."

Gilbert feels James quit on the Cavs during their second-round series against the Boston Celtics, who rallied from a 2-1 deficit to eliminate Cleveland. "He quit," Gilbert said. "Not just in Game 5, but in Games 2, 4 and 6. Watch the tape. The Boston series was unlike anything in the history of sports for a superstar."

The Cavaliers were beaten by 32 points in Game 5. During the game, James appeared distracted and uninterested, often glaring at Cleveland's coaches as the Cavs tried to

foul to get back into the game in the second half. James also made some puzzling postgame comments, saying he had "spoiled" people with his play over seven seasons.

Gilbert also said he believes James quit on the Cavs in Game 6 of their series in 2009 against Orlando.

"Go back and look at the tape," he said. "How many shots did he take?"

Gilbert, who has owned the Cavs for five years, said he was most disappointed by James' behavior in the months leading up to the superstar's announcement that he is going to Miami to play with Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh. Gilbert said James never returned a single phone message or text since the end of the season and that the Cavs were not informed of James' decision until he went on the air.

Gilbert said Rich Paul, one of James' business partners, called the Cavs moments before the announcement.

"LeBron James needs to go to another team with two superstars already so he can win a championship," Gilbert said. "We will win a championship before (the Heat) do."

Gilbert said he now wishes he had done some things

differently with James, who spent seven seasons with the Cavs. "It's not about him leaving," Gilbert said. "It's the disrespect. It's time for people to hold these athletes accountable for their actions. Is this the way you raise your children? I've been holding this all in for a long time."

In Miami, Wade said he was stunned by Gilbert's comments.

"I think I'm happy that I have the owner that I have here in Miami," Wade told The Associated Press late Thursday night. "I'm happy Micky Arison is my owner. I couldn't believe it. I'm speechless. It's very unfortunate and I think it makes LeBron that much better about his decision."

"We knew 'Bron would take some backlash," Wade added in his interview with AP. "I told him he's a strong man for it." □



In this May 14, 2010, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert talks to the media during a news conference in Independence, Ohio. Gilbert released a statement tonight admonishing LeBron James' decision to leave Cleveland for the Miami Heat.

Associated Press

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# Defending champ Stricker leads Deere Classic by 1

SILVIS, Illinois (AP) — Defending champion Steve Stricker broke the 36-hole record at the John Deere Classic on Friday to take a one-stroke lead heading into the third round.

Stricker, playing in the morning, shot a 5-under 66 for a two-round total of 126 — which is 16 under at the TPC Deere Run course.

That was just good enough to hold off Paul Goydos, who sent a buzz through the golf world in the opening round by shooting only the fourth 59 in PGA Tour history.

Goydos couldn't maintain the deft putting that had enabled him to join golf's most exclusive club and he settled for a 3-under 68, leaving him at 127. "Reality kicked in today," Goydos said.

The old 36-hole record was 127 by David Frost in 2000, the first year the tournament was played at Deere Run.

Showing no ill-effects from a shoulder injury that sidelined him for six weeks earlier this year, Stricker overcame a bogey on his fifth hole with accurate approaches that left him with makeable birdie



Steve Stricker looks over his putt on the 16th green during the second round of the John Deere Classic at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Ill., Friday, July 9, 2010.

putts.

"It's always tough to follow up a good round with another good round and for whatever reason, I thought I did a pretty good job of that today," Stricker said.

Goydos appeared to be on his way to another sizzling round when he birdied his 11th hole, the par-5 No. 2, to go 17 under and move ahead of Stricker by a stroke. Then his game unraveled.

He failed to break par on any of the last seven holes and

*Associated Press*

bogeyed two of them. After needing only 22 putts on Thursday, he slogged through this round with 32, essentially the difference in his scores. "Yesterday was one of the greatest putting rounds maybe of all time and today was not," Goydos said. "But that's not — I think they call it the Sports Illustrated jinx. It's just a reversion to the norm. Things tend to want to work their way to the center." Still, he admitted: "I hit some pretty squirrely short putts coming in."

## U.S. WOMEN OPEN

*Continued from Page 12*

Taking on 108-year-old Oakmont, its Stimp-meter-busting greens and fabled hazards is difficult enough in a tournament where the leaders may have already seen the last of below-par scores. Taking on Kerr when she's on her game may be equally rough, even if 21 golfers go into Saturday morning within two shots of the lead.

"You kind of, you know, sit in the weeds and wait, wait to kind of strike," Kerr said.

She was referring to the patience needed for Oakmont to yield some birdies, rather than trying to force them on a course where Angel Cabrera's winning score for the 2007 U.S. Open was 5 over.

Inadvertently, she might be referring to her strategy for taking on the rest of a field that may be beyond fatigued once a very long Saturday is over.

Play is scheduled to resume early Saturday, with the third round set for 6:30am.

The leaders won't start the third round until approximately 9:30 am on Saturday and will finish Sunday morning. That means Kerr might play only 12 holes or so on Saturday, compared to 36 for the less fortunate.

Those playing all or most of their second rounds in the morning, including Gustafson, Kristy McPherson and two-time Women's Open

Jeff Maggert, Matt Jones and George McNeill were tied at 11-under 131, Maggert and McNeill shooting bogey-free 65s and Jones stumbling in at 67 after bogeying his final two holes.

South African Brendon de Jonge, buoyed by two monster putts, matched those 65s to tie Aaron Baddeley at 10 under.

The course is drying out from rains early in the week and the soft greens that allowed players to attack them so aggressively figure to be slicker this weekend. But it'll still take low scores to stay in contention, perhaps really low scores.

"I've got to figure somewhere around 25 under is probably going to win," Maggert said. "So I've got to keep playing hard to try to shoot six-, seven-under on the weekend."

Stricker is thinking the same way.

"Low scores are out there, and you've got to acknowledge that," he said. "You've got to think somebody could come from behind and shoot a real low one." Stricker finished on a bit of a downer, though. On the par-4 ninth, he sliced his second shot into the bunker

right of the green, then looked as though he'd get up and down when he blasted out to 2 feet. But he missed a putt he normally could make with his eyes closed and walked off with a bogey and a bit of a sour feeling.

"Missing a 2-footer doesn't sit very well right now," Stricker said.

Stricker bogeyed No. 14, a par 4, after he flew the green not once, but twice. All things considered, he was happy to get out of there with a 5.

"If you would have given me a 5 as I'm sitting back there trying to figure out my options, I would have taken it," he said. "So that was good."

Later, Stricker salvaged par on No. 4 after almost losing his ball in the tall grass lining the right side of the fairway. He was walking back to the fairway, resigned that his ball was lost, when some keen eyes spotted it.

Rejuvenated, Stricker hacked out and gave himself a 6-footer for par, which he knocked in. Maggert, who's been bothered by a sore shoulder most of the year, had failed to make the cut or withdrew from nine of his last 10 tournaments. □

champion Karrie Webb, gain the advantage of softer greens and, thus, a friendlier putting surface.

Conversely, the course will play longer because it's wetter, and that could result in some bad lies that the fast, firm Oakmont didn't produce until the rain fell.

"I don't know how this course drains, but it's going to play extremely long and soft," Lang said.

Kerr, much like her bumpy first round, was streaky on Friday. She had a double bogey and two bogeys in a span of four holes during her first nine, which began on No. 10, but she recovered with three consecutive birdies from No. 4 through No. 6.

"You have to take opportunities when you have them for birdie and make them and get some momentum going, and that's what I did on the front," Kerr said.

Now, Kerr hopes to take advantage of much more rest than many others in a field already worn by taking on tough old Oakmont in near-tropical heat. At least temperatures will moderate the rest of the tournament, with highs predicted in the low 80s rather than the low 90.

"You have to have the patience of a saint this week on this golf course," Kerr said.

Especially when a golfer must wait 28 hours between taking shots, as she will. □

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### AL Roundup

# Danks blanks Angels

CHICAGO (AP) — John Danks held the Los Angeles Angels hitless for six innings before finishing with a two-hitter Thursday as the Chicago White Sox won 1-0 for a four-game sweep and its 22nd victory in 27 games.

Danks (8-7) gave up a leadoff single to Reggie Willits in the seventh. After yielding another single, he pitched out of trouble and got his first major league shutout.

Chicago won its fifth straight and moved within one-half game of Detroit for first place in the American League Central.

Ervin Santana (8-7) gave up three hits over eight innings.

#### **Rays 5, Indians 2**

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Carl Crawford hit two two-run homers and Wade Davis stopped his six-game winless streak as Tampa Bay downed Cleveland.

Tampa Bay went ahead 2-1 on Crawford's two-run shot in the first inning. His second two-run drive and Carlos Pena's solo homer made it 5-2 in the third.

Davis (6-9) gave up two runs and four hits in seven innings. He had gone 0-5

in six starts since beating Chicago on May 29.

Tampa Bay has won six straight and is 7-1 in July. The Rays were 11-14 in June.

Michael Brantley hit his first major league homer for the Indians, who have lost 23 of their last 35 road games. Jake Westbrook (5-5) allowed five runs and eight hits over six innings.

#### **Blue Jays 8, Twins 1**

At Toronto, Jose Bautista hit one of Toronto's five home runs as Brett Cecil snapped a four-start winless streak with a victory over Minnesota.

Fred Lewis, Adam Lind, Jose Molina and Lyle Overbay also went deep for the Blue Jays, who hit 10 homers in the three-game series and lead the majors with 130. Bautista leads the majors with 23 homers and eight Blue Jays have at least 10 home runs before the All-Star break, a club first.

Cecil (8-5) won for the first time since June 10 at Tampa Bay, allowing one run and four hits in seven innings. Minnesota lost for the 11th time in 16 games.

#### **Orioles 6, Rangers 4**

At Arlington, Texas, Craig Tatum drew a bases-loaded

walk in the eighth inning to force in the go-ahead run and Scott Moore and Felix Pie homered as Baltimore rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Texas.

Baltimore loaded the bases in a three-run eighth against Frank Francisco (6-4). Darren Oliver relieved and hit Pie with a pitch to force in a run and tie it at 4. Oliver then walked Tatum to force in pinch-runner Cesar Izturis, giving Baltimore a 5-4 lead.

Julio Lugo's RBI single off Darren O'Day made it 6-4. Josh Hamilton had a homer and two doubles to extend his home hitting streak to 28 games.

At Seattle, Alex Rodriguez had a two-run single in the ninth inning to give New York its first lead, and Mariano Rivera closed out the victory over Seattle.

The Yankees won their sixth straight overall and season-best fifth in a row away from home behind Andy Pettitte.

After Derek Jeter's one-out walk in the ninth, Nick Swisher had his fourth hit, a double that sent Jeter to third. After an out, Rodriguez fought off David Aardsma's fastball and



Chicago White Sox's John Danks pitches against the Los Angeles Angels during the first inning of a baseball game Thursday, July 8, 2010, in Chicago.

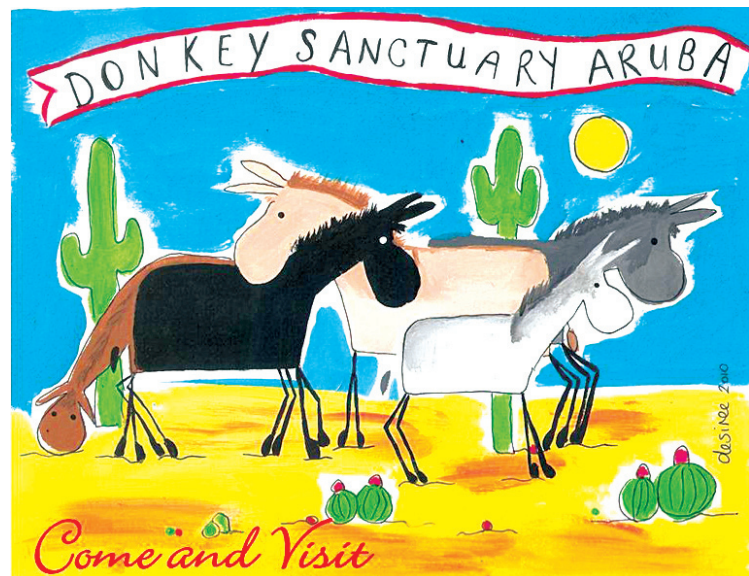
*Associated Press*

pushed it through the right side of the infield to give New York a 3-1 lead.

It was only the second time Rodriguez got a hit off Aardsma (0-6). The other was a decisive homer in the eighth inning a week ago at

Yankee Stadium.

**In other AL games it was Chicago White Sox 1, L.A. Angels 0; Toronto 8, Minnesota 1; Tampa Bay 5, Cleveland 2; Baltimore 6, Texas 4; and N.Y. Yankees 3, Seattle 1.** □





# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY



### NL Roundup

## Jimenez dominates Cards as Rockies complete sweep

DENVER (AP) — Ubaldo Jimenez became the first pitcher to reach 15 wins before the All-Star break in 10 years as the Colorado Rockies beat the St. Louis Cardinals 4-2 on Thursday. Jason Giambi went 4 for 4 with two RBIs and Dexter Fowler had two hits for the Rockies, who swept the three-game series.

Huston Street worked the ninth for his third save.

Jon Jay doubled twice for the Cardinals.

Jimenez (15-1) was dominant over eight innings, allowing one run and three hits. He struck out six and walked one.

Chris Carpenter (9-3) gave up nine hits, struck out three and walked two in six innings.

### Giants 9, Brewers 3

At Milwaukee, Aubrey Huff homered and drove in four runs, and rookie Buster Posey homered as San Francisco's bullpen held on to complete a four-game sweep of Milwaukee. Andres Torres homered in the eighth and Posey homered for the fourth time in the series in the ninth. The Giants outscored the Brewers 36-7 in this series for their first four-game sweep in Milwaukee.

Huff drove in runs with a single in the first, a two-run homer in the third and a sacrifice fly in the fourth off Brewers starter Manny Parra (3-6) as the Giants built a 6-0 lead.

### Astros 2, Pirates 0

At Houston, Roy Oswalt allowed only a first-inning single to Neil Walker, and Lance Berkman provided



Colorado Rockies' Jason Giambi follows through after connecting for an RBI single off of St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Chris Carpenter in the first inning of a baseball game at Coors Field in Denver on Thursday, July 8, 2010.

*Associated Press*

the power with two home runs as Houston completed a three-game sweep of Pittsburgh.

Oswalt's seventh career shutout and 19th complete game finished the Astros' third sweep of the season — second over the Pirates, the only team in the National League Central with a worse record than Houston. His last shutout came in September 2008 against Pittsburgh and his previous complete game was against the Dodgers last July.

The win breaks a career-long, six-game home losing streak for Oswalt (6-10), who requested a trade from the team earlier this season.

### Padres 7, Nationals 1

At Washington, Mat Latos threw seven shutout innings

and had two hits, including one of San Diego's four homers, in a win over Washington.

Latos (10-4) won his career-high fifth consecutive decision. He gave up five hits and two walks, with eight strikeouts.

He hit his first career homer off Luis Atilano (6-6) in the fourth inning, then singled and scored in the seventh. San Diego's Chris Denorfia homered for the second consecutive game, Chase Headley hit a two-run shot and Jerry Hairston Jr. went deep in the ninth.

### Phillies 4, Reds 3, 12 innings

At Philadelphia, Brian Schneider hit a game-ending homer in the bottom of the 12th inning to give

Philadelphia a victory over the NL Central-leading Cincinnati.

Shane Victorino had a solo homer for the struggling Phillies, who had lost seven of 10. They overcame another blown save by Brad Lidge to win this one.

Joey Votto hit his league-leading 22nd homer hours after the Reds first baseman was named to the All-Star team.

The Reds had won a franchise-best nine straight extra-inning road games dating to June 2009.

Schneider connected off Jordan Smith (2-2) with one out.

At Phoenix, Kelly Johnson and Gerardo Parra matched their career-highs with four hits each as Arizona

snapped a five-game losing streak in front of 16,664, the smallest home crowd in the Diamondbacks' 13-year history.

Johnson had three RBIs, including a two-run triple in Arizona's five-run fifth fourth inning against Florida's Anibal Sanchez. Cole Gillespie added a two-run double in the fourth.

Parra had three singles and a double and scored twice. Stephen Drew tripled and scored three times.

Brett Hayes hit his first home run of the season for Florida, a two-run shot off starter Rodrigo Lopez in the seventh inning.

### Dodgers 3, Cubs 2

At Los Angeles, Rafael Furcal hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning to lift Clayton Kershaw and Los Angeles past Chicago.

Kershaw (9-4) struck out a season-high 12 and walked none in eight innings. The left-hander allowed two runs and seven hits for his second straight win.

Jonathan Broxton pitched a scoreless ninth for his 19th save.

The loss snapped the Cubs' three-game winning streak, while the Dodgers won for the fourth time in six games.

**In other NL games it was Houston 2, Pittsburgh 0; San Francisco 9, Milwaukee 3; Colorado 4, St. Louis 2; Philadelphia 4, Cincinnati 3, 12 innings; San Diego 7, Washington 1; Arizona 10, Florida 4; and L.A. Dodgers 3, Chicago Cubs 2.** □



## Netherlands Signs Transport Agreements With Overseas Territories



THE HAGUE - Dutch Minister for Transport, Camiel Eurlings has announced the signing of agreements with the Netherlands' overseas territories, Aruba and Curaçao to enhance cooperation in the field of air and marine transport.

The Netherlands, Curaçao and Aruba already work closely on various areas regarding aviation and maritime affairs. Now, under the new agreement, the government said that all important, relevant matters relating to aviation and maritime affairs would be dealt with on a cooperative trilateral basis. In particular, this new cooperation will be evident in the application of safety and security standards relating to the two industries, to ensure that the territories comply fully with international best practices.

Eurlings said that the agreements will benefit all of its overseas territories as aviation and shipping are crucial for economic development.

*Continued on Page B3*

*More than 2,000 people expected!*

## Café the Plaza gears up for World Cup Win



PALM BEACH - Café the Plaza will undergo a transformation during the upcoming final of the World Cup Soccer Championships to accommodate the 2,000-plus soccer fans that will come down to the Renaissance Marketplace this Sunday afternoon. Staffers have the early morning off so that they can be out in full force during the afternoon and evening.



An extra giant screen, a Mega Screen (3.5 x 2 m), will be placed outside on the terrace so that everyone will have a superb view of the goings-on on the field in South Africa. A total of nine

screens, inside as well as outside, will make sure that not a second of action will be missed. A famous DJ, Dutch snacks, Balashi Beer for AWG. 5,-- will add even more joy to the festivities.

the Dutch National team is expected to enter the field at 14.15 in the company of their Spanish opponents, who defeated Germany's pride and hope last Wednesday.

*Continued on Page B4*



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# International Soccer Action Comes to Aruba in October

Aruba's Minister of Public Health and Sport, Richard Visser, recently joined with organizers of the Copa Aruba to announce the upcoming Copa Aruba, an international soccer competition in the Master and Super Master Divisions.

The tournament will open on October 30, and matches will be conducted at the Guillermo Trinidad Stadium in Dakota. Collaborating on this project is Rogerio Donato of CIA Travel, Brazil, and Aruba's Voetball Bond, represented by President Rufo Kelly and Ron Helder.

The tournament will feature twenty teams of veteran soccer stars in age categories of 40, 50 and 60 years from Brazil, Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire, competing from

October 30 through November 4 for the coveted Copa Aruba 2010. Mr. Rogerio reported he expects to bring 600 Brazilian soccer fanatics to Aruba to attend the games.

Those traveling to Aruba are



offered a very appealing one-week travel package, including entrance to the games.

The matches will also be interspersed with soccer clinics for island youth and

football clubs by the visiting Brazilian players and coaches. Aruba's Minister of Sport, and Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber, applaud this initiative for Aruban athletes both young

and mature; they encourage islanders to attend and cheer on their home teams.

Football fans will also have the opportunity to meet ex-star player of Brazil's selection Bebeto who was named the

Godfather of the Copa Aruba 2010 Tournament. Bebeto will also be giving a football clinic to Aruban kids and also different Aruban football clubs. This event will be covered by the Brazilian press. □

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

**ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.**

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

### Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com).

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*ARUBA BANK partners with The Pancake Gallery*

## ART RULES ARUBA 2010 a reality for Aruba's youth!!



ORANJESTAD - The Pancake Gallery Foundation and Aruba Bank are getting ready to kick start Art Rules Aruba 2010 on July 16th at the Surfside Marina in Oranjestad.

The event which marks the beginning of the exciting Art Rules Aruba Project will commence with 250 specially selected students, parents, teachers and Aruba's press A-listers.

What's more, the Pancake Gallery wanted to personally show its appreciation to all their sponsors by inviting all those who have made

generous donations towards project, giving them with the opportunity to personally meet and greet the students.

"We really wanted to give all sponsors the opportunity to meet the students who's lives they are going to help change through a program that will enrich them with so much knowledge and a fun educational experience".

Thank you to all sponsors such as Ernts & Young, Digicel, Prins Bernard Cultuur Fonds, VNO and Aruba Airport Authority just to name a few. The Pancake Gallery adds, "We

really turned this Island upside down to get everyone involved". A complete list of this is available via the program website.

Presenting its two week intensive "summer" workshop program in the seven Art disciplines, Art Rules Aruba offers workshops in Dance, Theatre, Poetry & Rap, Djing, Photography & Design, Fashion and a bonus workshop in film.

With classes orchestrated by the finest international team of artists, directors, producers, dj's dancers and actors; the students



will be given a unique opportunity to experience an international exchange of knowledge and skills with teachers from cities around the world including; London, Amsterdam, New York, Washington, Rotterdam and even Quebec Canada.

Classes will take place in both San Nicolaas and Oranjestad

and If you do not fall within the age bracket between 14-21, not to worry, Art Rules Aruba will also offer master classes in the evening and special events during the weekends.

For more information on the program or any of the Sponsors, visit [www.artrulesaruba.com](http://www.artrulesaruba.com)

## Netherlands Signs Transport Agreements With Overseas Territories

*Continued from Page B1*

Speaking in Aruba, he said: "We want to promote [the two industries] and at the same time establish high standards in order for the services to be top of the line."

In addition to improving the islands' aviation and marine offerings, the agreements will apply a uniform application of standard procedures on travelers within the Dutch


Kingdom.

This will include the three islands, Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius, soon to be special municipalities of the Netherlands. Under the terms of the agreement, Netherlands Antilles Air Traffic Control (NAATC) will provide assistance to the air traffic control system for these islands with the financial backing of the Netherlands. □

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# Café the Plaza gears up for World Cup Win



*Continued from Page B1*

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# Worries about Abolition of Netherlands Antilles



THE HAGUE - The Hague is extremely concerned about the reform of the Netherlands Antilles, now that this has been hammered out on almost all levels. Senators, who backed the deal this week, acknowledge that the islands are not complying with the agreements, civil servants' journal Binnenlands Bestuur reports.

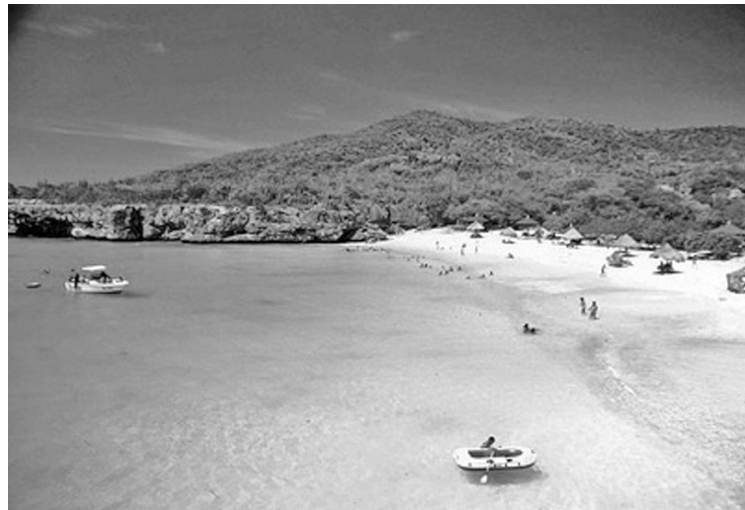
On 10 October this year, Curaçao and Sint Maarten will become autonomous countries.

In essential areas, the two islands do not meet the requirements set beforehand. For example, the police force is not in order; the Bon Futuro prison on Curaçao is way below standard, and financial administration on Sint Maarten is below standard. The Netherlands has however already cancelled the islands' debts.

The Upper House backed the reform deal this week. It was 'helped' by a motion from former Lower House Labour (PvdA) MP Leerdam, himself

Antillean, whereby the islands are given the opportunity to comply with the conditions later - within two years.

"I think that this period is an illusion," acknowledges PvdA



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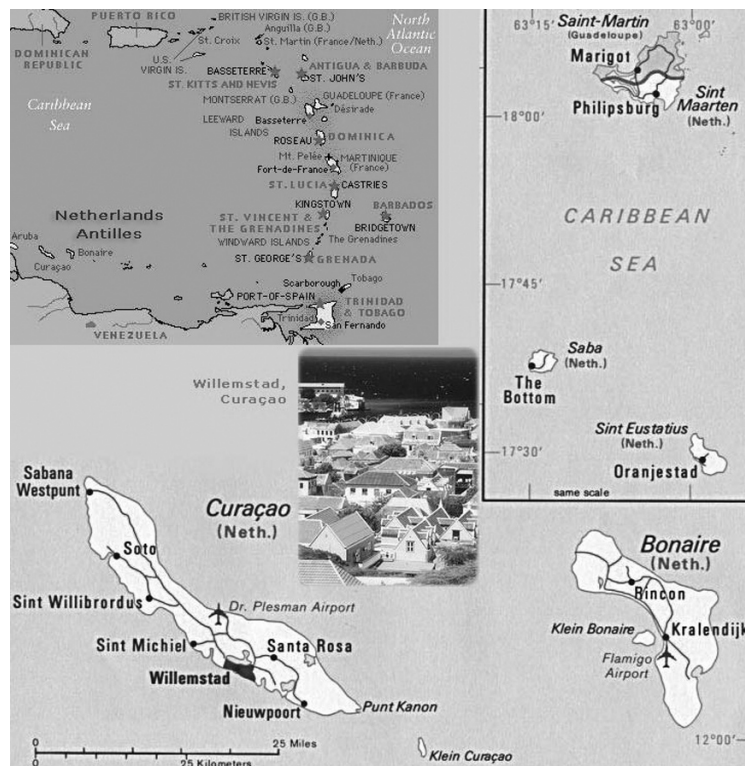
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Senator Marijke Linthorst.

The Senators were not at all in favour of the accord. "It is a strangulation contract, out of which we cannot step," according to VVD Upper House member Frank van Kappen. Senator Linthorst would also prefer to have halted the whole process, Binnenlands Bestuur reported. "But what do you have then? The country of the Antilles has proved that it is not in a state to administer properly. So it just has to be like this." Van Kappen (VVD) believes the Netherlands has made a serious mistake. "The islands have turned the matter around. The agreement was: first meet the conditions, then we will make the Antilles debt-free and they will become autonomous countries within the Kingdom.

But we have allowed the financial part to be arranged and after that, they are now not sticking to the other agreements."

The race is not yet over on the islands themselves regarding the transition to greater independence. On Curaçao, fresh elections will be held on 27 August, which have to approve the so-called State Scheme. On Sint Maarten, not even a draft State Scheme has yet been presented to parliament. □





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HUMAN HINTS

# Turn Your Desires Into A Practical Plan

We tend to want change far more quickly than the three dimensional world allows. It is easy to feel like we're not getting anywhere when we're forced to repeat the same pattern over and over again every day.

Our mind can make a situation seem endless, especially when there's no end in sight. Despite our best efforts, things often don't change from day to day, week to week, or even month to month.

The frustration of not seeming to get anywhere forces us to question our selves and reevaluate our plan.

Doubt will arise along your journey. Use your doubt to bring to light the specific thing that is blocking you.

Use your frustration to understand yourself at a deeper level, that has until now remained outside of your awareness.

We'll also get frustrated if we don't have a clear

picture of where we're headed. We must have at least a general idea of the direction we want our lives to go, otherwise we won't go anywhere. Always have a goal that you can work toward.

It doesn't matter if you attain what you strive for. What matters is that you strive for something. When you engage in focused action toward a specific goal, you directly affect your life.

Too many short-term actions toward too many undirected short term goals won't get you anywhere in the long run because you'll be acting in all directions. This makes it impossible to build momentum in any single direction.

When you work toward a single long-term goal, your short-term actions will build momentum in the direction you want to go. Your momentum and actions will support each other in bringing you closer to where you want to be in life.

After you have a goal for at least one year or further into the future, you can formulate a plan.

Start with your longest-term goal, and break it into smaller time frames. Continue to break down your goals into shorter time frames, until you have small tasks that you can accomplish each day.

Update the details of your plan every week.

Specific actions get more fuzzy as your plan extends

into the future, but if you don't keep the tiny specifics at least a week ahead, your actions will lose continuity, your momentum will decrease and your focus will falter.

Until Tomorrow...

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~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit.

He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice.

These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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# Aruba To Host The 36th Annual Latin American Senior Baseball League Championships

ORANJESTAD - Elio Heronimo President and members of the organizing committee for the Latin American Senior Baseball League Championships announced that Aruba, host for this major sports event, expects to welcome delegations from eleven member nations.

Delegations from Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Maarten, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Panama, Dominican Republic and the U.S. Virgin Islands will begin arriving on July 15. They will face off against two home teams from Aruba, the defending Latin American Champions from last year. Players are between the ages of 14 to 16 and the games will begin on Aruba on July 17 until the 25th. Winners will be eligible to compete



in the Senior League World Series taking place in Bangor, Maine, in August.

Three ball parks around the island will be venues for the competitions. The inaugural game will be at the Winston

Ballpark in Macuarima, the other two stadiums include Joe Laveist in San Nicolas and Dragon Hitters in Barcadera. Committee members mentioned how proud they are of the accomplishments of

the Aruba team, which came in second in the World Series 2009, and how important it is for islanders to support their teams during the Latin American Championships. Tickets for the games are

only 5 Arubian florins for adults, and 2 florins for children (\$2.85 and \$1.20, respectively) and hope to see local residents filling the bleachers to cheer on their players. □

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Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

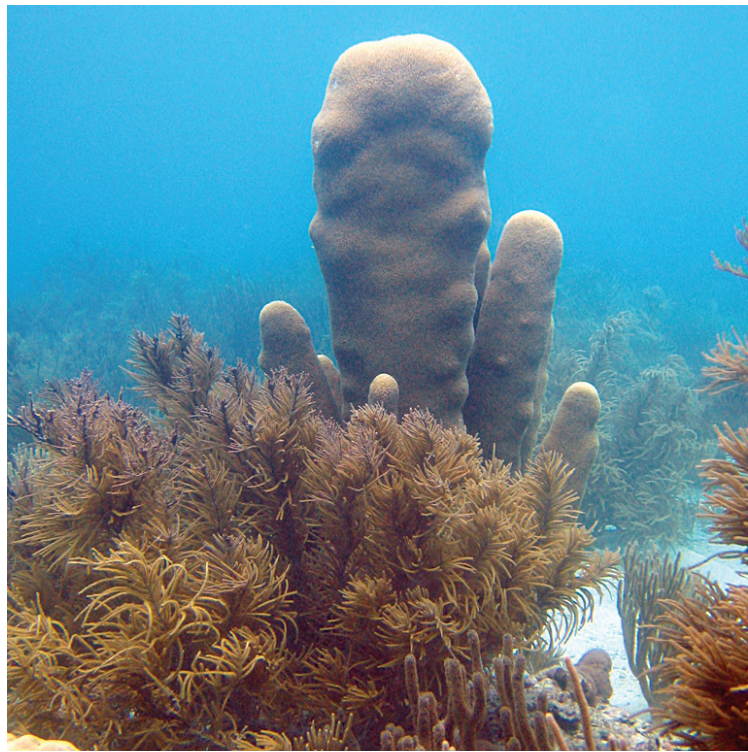
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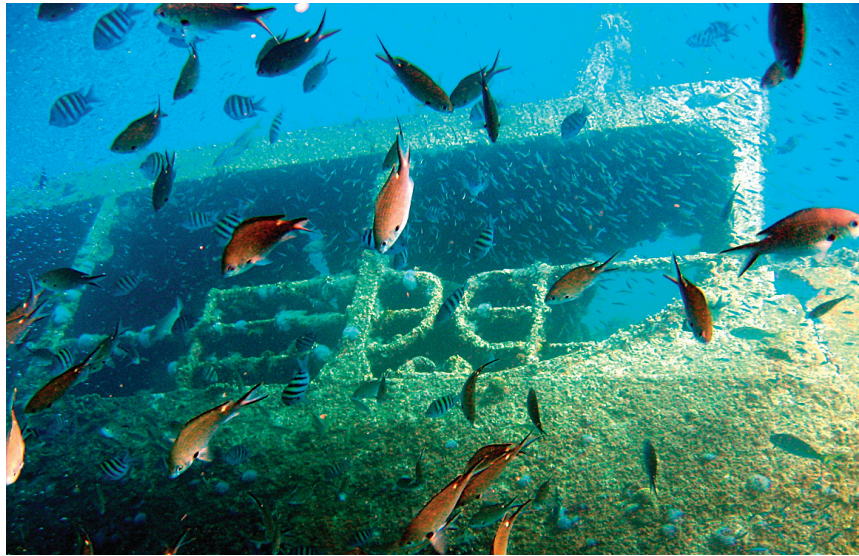
ORANJESTAD - Recently the minister of tourism here in Aruba mentioned during a press conference the implementation of an Aruba Marine Park. According to the minister the plans regarding the implementation of the Aruba Marine Park are very advanced and a presentation has been done already to the council of ministers. Implementation of a marine in

Aruba is long overdue. Since the early 1960's the island has known an explosive growth in population, annual tourism, construction and infrastructure. Because of this growth it brought with it also an increase in waste production, pollution, deterioration of the environment and the marine environment in particular. While other tourism destinations in the Caribbean

# “Aruba will have an Aruba Marine Park”A

have been engaging in marine protection and conservation for the past five decades, finally Aruba is going to join the ranks of countries, which are involved with the aquatic tourism product improvement by instituting a marine park. Why introduce a marine park and marine sanctuaries? Marine parks and marine sanctuaries are much like land based parks and reserves. They are extensive areas that have been given national status because of their individual geographic features and diverse range of plants and animals. The majority of the world's marine parks and marine sanctuaries are on public land, so they are there for everyone to enjoy. These parks are either implemented by a marine park law or they fall under specific environmental laws. In Aruba for instance some protection already exists under the fisheries and the environmental law just to mention a few. The

important thing to remember is when your visit a marine park there is the 'no take' rule. This means that you cannot take anything out of it. The removal of animals, plants, shells, sand or any other objects is not allowed. Marine parks can also have marine sanctuaries within a marine park. These can be designated areas within the park, which are used to control fishing activities, nesting, breeding grounds and research areas. Implementing an Aruba Marine Park will help to rebuild fish and seafood stocks, maintain biological productivity, and support sustainable marine fisheries. A marine park can be a very versatile management tool that can be used to help conserve marine natural and cultural resources and it can be an integral part of an ecosystem approach to management. Local laws and regulations will provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural



and cultural resources therein. An Aruba Marine Park will help to protect water sports activities, fishermen, the general public, the marine environment and improve the general use of the marine resources while working with the government and government departments to ensure that the marine park designated areas are used in accordance with the management plan. If we look in the region, the Bonaire National Marine Park is considered by many

to be one of the most successful marine parks in the world. About 70 countries in the world have a marine park, however, many are considered "paper parks" because legislation is not enforced, resources are lacking and management plans are not properly carried out. Because many of the world marine parks lack this success, one must look at the Bonaire National Marine Park model and its protected areas. Tourism and in particular scuba diving tourism is the main

source of income for Bonaire. The island has had a steady annual total of 70,000 tourists visiting for the last five years and about 85 percent of these tourists are scuba divers. Aruba on the other hand has about 70,000 divers per year. Aruba compared to Bonaire is smaller in size with fewer hectares of coral reefs but Aruba accommodates about 1.4 million visitors annually. Legislation and protection started in Bonaire in 1961 but the Bonaire Marine Park was established in 1979 with a grant from the World Wildlife Fund. The Netherlands and the Bonaire government also contributed to jump start the marine park. Aruba will face a few challenges with the implementation of the Aruba Marine Park. A strong plan must be in place to guarantee the financial continuity. Management must be effective and provide frequent

and constant patrols including adequate law enforcement, abundance of information and educational activities, good communications with all stakeholders and constant research and monitoring. Like Bonaire, many marine parks have fees that are paid by visitors or marine park users. Various fees and or permits are used towards the parks upkeep and maintenance, law enforcement, information and education, and research and monitoring. The introduction of user fees should not be seen as a burden but rather as people contributing to the enhancement of the overall product and actively participating in marine environmental protection. Implementation of the Aruba Marine Park and its success will depend in part on the cooperation of all stakeholders. The biggest stakeholder is the local government, which raises a few questions. Is the

management of a marine park a government task and should the government finance the implementation of a marine park? Well, the designated areas, which will make up the marine park are all government land and there for the responsibility falls with the government to protect these areas under existing laws. In reality the government departments involved are too many and that will make it unrealistic for the government to manage such a park. That is why the government must appoint an independent managing entity, which will manage the marine park on behalf of the government, just like in the case of the Bonaire National Marine Park. The land will remain government land and does not become property of the managing entity. Based on the same marine park model in Bonaire the government of Aruba will not have to finance or provide subsidies to the marine park because it will have to become financially self sustainable. Dive and water sport fees

are the most common fees used in marine parks and one of the most successful tools for securing funding. Currently the northern part of the island, which stretches from the Costa Linda resort all the way to Arashi beach is in need of public moorings, reef protection and management of the current snorkeling and dive sites, which are being overused on a daily basis. Beach pollution is also something that the future marine park must tackle. Implementation of the "Blue Flag" certification is also one of the projects that the marine must complete in the near future, including installation of monitoring buoys, which will help with research of currents, waves, water temperature and other scientific information. The future Aruba Marine Park must come with an intensive informational campaign, which will have to inform and help to educate everyone regarding the need for the marine park, the benefits of the marine park and why protection is necessary. □

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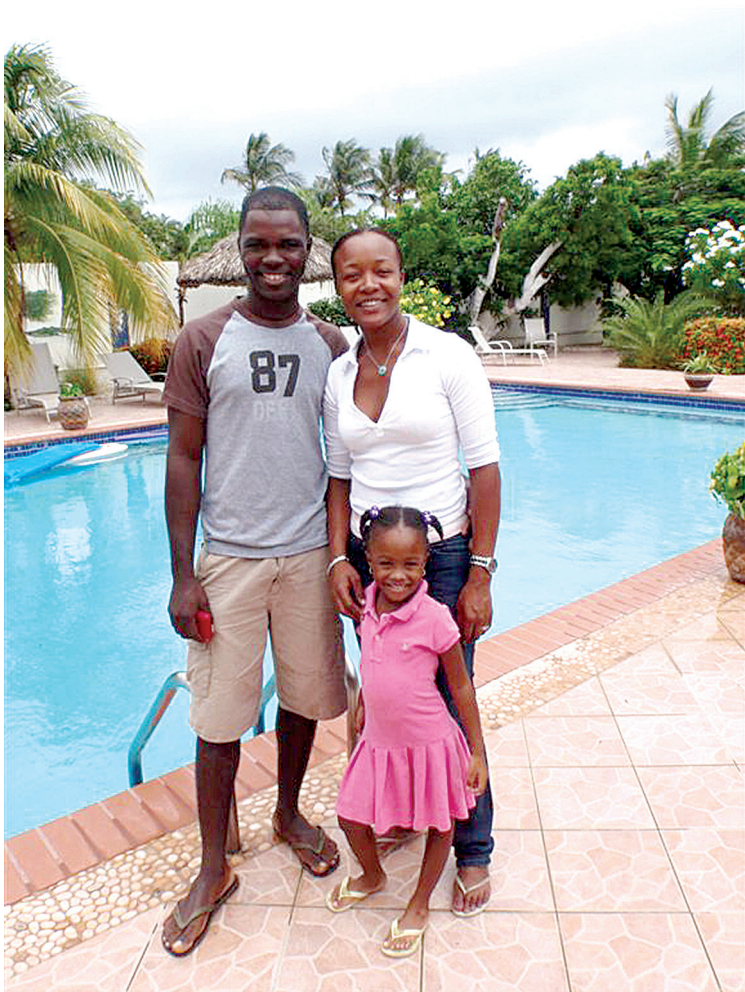


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# Tourist takes locals on under-water island tour



PALM BEACH - Island guest Kent Gerber who is on the Island for a month had his close friends over to Club Arias where he is staying. Soniel, Jonnique and their daughter Jalaya. They ate breakfast at Club Arias and spent the day playing pool, pingpong and Kent took them snorkeling. They even saw a turtle. Soniel is a chef at Moomba Beach Bar and Jonnique is a waitress at Flying fishbone. Kent said the Aruban people are so friendly and that's a big reason why he has come back to Aruba 20 times. □







# New Anti-HIV Weapons Found in Immune System

By Randy Dotinga

Scientists report they've discovered possible new weapons in the war against HIV: antibody "soldiers" in the immune system that might prevent the AIDS virus from invading human cells.

According to the researchers, these newly found antibodies connect with and neutralize more than 90 percent of a group of HIV-1 strains, involving all major genetic subtypes of the virus.

That breadth of activity could potentially move research closer toward development of an HIV vaccine, although that goal still remains years away, at best, experts say.

The findings "show that the immune system can make very potent antibodies against HIV," said Dr. John Mascola, a vaccine researcher and co-author of two new studies published online July 8 in the

journal Science.

"We are trying to understand why they exist in some patients and not others. That will help us in the vaccine design process," said Mascola.

Antibodies are warriors in the body's immune system that work to prevent infection. "Neutralizing" antibodies bind to germs and try to disable them, explained Ralph Pantophlet, an immunologist and assistant professor at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada.

With HIV, the antibodies are in a continual race to adjust to the virus, which evolves to escape detection. "The reason the antibodies generally do not work so well is because they're always playing catch up," said Pantophlet, who is familiar with the findings of the new studies.

However, some people's

antibodies are known to cope especially well with HIV, although even these rare patients can't get rid of the virus entirely, Pantophlet said. In the new studies, researchers report on three antibodies that appear to have major powers to fight off HIV. In a sense, the antibodies gum up a lock that the virus tries to pick to get into healthy cells, said Mascola, deputy director of the Vaccine Research Center at the U.S. National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

However, making antibodies in large enough quantities to boost the immune system remains a challenge, said Pantophlet.

While researchers haven't given up on that prospect, some think it's more feasible to use the new findings as another avenue to an AIDS vaccine. The idea would be to teach the body to produce



Activists, doctors and some HIV-infected patients protest against the enforced relocation of Kiev's Infectious Diseases Hospital in front of the cabinet ministers building in Kiev July 7, 2010.

REUTERS/Gleb Garanich

the antibodies so the person is protected when exposed to the virus, Mascola said.

But that won't happen for some time, if at all. "Developing a vaccine always takes a fairly long period of research with some trial and error," Mascola said. "The goal is to vaccinate individuals and have their

own immune systems make an antibody like this," he said.

"To do that, we have to design a new vaccine, study it first in animal models, and then try it in small scale human studies, and see if it does what we expect it to do. That takes a quite a bit of time and effort." □

## Childhood Obesity Boosts Risk of GERD

By Steven Reinberg

Obese older children are at increased risk for developing the painful digestive disease known as gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), researchers from Kaiser Permanente in California report.

In fact, extremely obese children have up to a 40 percent higher risk of GERD, while those who are moderately obese have up to a 30 percent higher risk of developing it, compared with normal weight children, researchers say.

"Although we know that childhood obesity, especially extreme obesity, comes with risks for serious health conditions, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer, our study adds yet another condition to the list, which is GERD," said study lead author Corinna Koebnick, a research scientist at Kaiser Permanente Southern California's Department of Research and Evaluation in Pasadena.

While the causes of the chronic digestive disease are not known, obesity appears to be one of them, she noted. "With the increasing epidemic of childhood obesity, GERD may become more and more of an issue," she added.

GERD can undermine quality of life, Koebnick said, noting that the disease can cause chronic heartburn, nausea and the potential for

respiratory problems such as persistent cough, inflammation of the larynx and asthma.

GERD has already been linked to obesity in adults, many of whom are familiar with its intermittent heartburn resulting from liquid containing stomach acid that backs up into the esophagus. Untreated, GERD can result in chronic inflammation of the lining of the esophagus and, more rarely, to lasting damage, including ulcers and scarring.

About 10 percent of GERD patients also go on to develop a precancerous condition known as Barrett's esophagus, which in a small minority will develop into cancer. Kaiser researchers noted that GERD that persists through adulthood increases the risk for esophageal cancer later in life.

Cancer of the esophagus is the fastest growing cancer in the United States, and is expected to double in frequency over the next 20 years. This increase may be partly due to the obesity epidemic, Koebnick said.

The report is published in the July 9 online edition of the International Journal of Pediatric Obesity.

For the Kaiser study, Koebnick's team collected data on more than 690,000 children aged 2 to 19 years old. □

## U.S. Report on Kids' Health Brings Mixed Results

By Serena Gordon

In an annual report gauging the health and well-being of America's children, a group of 22 federal agencies reports progress in some areas, preterm births and teen pregnancies in particular, but bad news in other areas, like the number of teens living in poverty.

"This report is a status update on how our nation's children are faring, and it represents large segments of the population," Dr. Alan E. Guttmacher, acting director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, said during a press conference.

The report, titled America's Children In Brief: Key Indicators of Well-Being, 2010, was released July 9.

According to the report, in 2009 there were 74.5 million people under 18 years of age living in the United States. That number is up 2 million since 2000.

Seventy percent of those children lived in households with two parents, while 26 percent lived with just one parent. Four percent of the nation's children live without either parent.

One of the most positive findings from the study was a drop in the rate of preterm births.

"There was a decline in the number of preterm births, and the decline was seen in each of the three largest racial and ethnic groups," said Edward Sondik, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics, during the press conference. □



# Classified

## YouTube to invest five million dollars to fund video-makers

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Employees work at the Youtube headquarters in San Bruno, California on May 2010. YouTube announced Friday that it will invest five million dollars in promising video-makers.

(AFP/File/Gabriel Bouys)

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) – YouTube announced Friday that it will invest five million dollars in promising video-makers.

“Our goal is to catalyze the creation of new ideas and production models from some of our most innovative and original content partners,”

said George Stropoulos, partner development manager at Google-owned YouTube. “We’ve been amazed by the creativity and resourcefulness of many of our partners,” Stropoulos said. “Some, operating on shoestring budgets, have been able to produce incredible videos,

generate substantial revenues and command an audience that rivals that of network television.

“Despite their success, many partners lack the resources and deep financial backing available to studio-backed production houses,” he said.

“The goal of YouTube Partner Grants is to act as a catalyst by infusing additional funds into the production budgets of a small group of YouTube partners who are at the forefront of innovation,” he said.

Stropoulos said the funds will allow video-makers to “invest in better cameras, achieve higher production quality, expand their marketing efforts, expand their staff, or just hire more talent.”

He said YouTube would contact eligible video-makers and invite them to submit a grant proposal. □

## China group says US uses Facebook to sow unrest

By ANITA CHANG,  
Associated Press Writer

BEIJING—A Chinese government-backed think tank has accused the U.S. and other Western governments of using social-networking sites such as Facebook to spur political unrest and called for stepped-up scrutiny of the wildly popular sites.

As China’s online population — the world’s largest — surges past the 400 million mark, its Communist government is growing increasingly sensitive to any online threats to its authority. Although Beijing operates an extensive system of monitoring and censorship to block material deemed subversive, the Internet is still the most open and lively forum for discussion in a society where traditional media are controlled by the state.

Twitter, for instance, has emerged as a gathering place for dissidents and other politically minded Chinese wanting to voice their complaints and share information.

Though the government routinely bans sites like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, technologically savvy users can easily jump China’s “Great Firewall” with proxy servers or other alternatives.

According to a report released this week by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the sites also harbor an external threat. Social-networking sites threaten state security because

the U.S. and other Western countries are using them to foment instability, said the report, titled “Development of China’s New Media.”

“We must pay attention to the potential risks and threats to state security as the popularity of social-networking sites continues to grow,” the report said.

“We must immediately step up supervision of social-networking sites.”

It cited unnamed U.S. officials as saying that social networking is an “invaluable tool” for overthrowing foreign governments. A comment by U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates that new communication technology is a “huge strategic asset” was also given as an example of the U.S. threat.

The report noted how Facebook and other social-networking sites were used as tools of “political subversion” in the mass protests following the Iranian elections last year. They also played a role in the violence in China’s far-western region of Xinjiang last summer that left some 200 people dead, the report said, noting some online groups overseas had issued calls for independence for the traditionally Muslim area.

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Beijing declined to comment on the specifics of the report because he had not seen it, but said the U.S. viewed freedom of expression as a “universal human right.” □

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# Whitewashing Black Racism

**Michelle Malkin**

Why haven't national media outlets reported on the vile and violent rants of the New Black Panther Party (NBPP) thugs whose 2008 voter intimidation tactics got a pass from the Obama administration? Simple: Radical black racism doesn't fit the Hope and Change narrative. There's no way to shoehorn Bush-bashing into the story. And, let's face it, exposing the inflammatory rhetoric of the left does nothing to help liberal editors and reporters fulfill their true calling — embarrassing the right.

This week, Justice Department

whistleblower J. Christian Adams came forward with damning public testimony about how Obama officials believe "civil rights law should not be enforced in a race-neutral manner, and should never be enforced against blacks or other national minorities." In the wake of Adams' expose on how the Obama DOJ abandoned default judgments against the NBPP bullies for the sake of politically correct racial politics, a shocking video clip of one of the lead defendants in the Philadelphia voter intimidation case resurfaced on the Internet. It shows bloodthirsty King Samir Shabazz during a 2009 National Geographic documentary interview spewing:

"You want freedom? You're gonna have to kill some crackers! You're gonna have to kill some of their babies!" These NBPP death threats and white-bashing diatribes are nothing new to those who have tracked the black supremacy movement. In August 2009, nearly a year ago, I reported on a sign on display outside NBPP defendant (and elected member of Philadelphia's 14th Ward Democratic Committee) Jerry Jackson's home. It reads: "COLORED ONLY: No Whites Allowed." In July 2009, I interviewed poll watcher/witness Christopher Hill, whom Shabazz and Jackson called "cracker" several times while Shabazz brandished his baton. "They physically attempted to block me," Hill recounted. He also saw a group of elderly ladies walk away from the polling site without voting while the duo preened in front of the entrance. "If you're a poll watcher, you shouldn't be dressed in paramilitary garb," Hill said, as he wondered aloud at what would have happened if he had showed up in the same sort of costume.

In May 2009, I reported on the affidavit of civil rights attorney and poll watcher Bartle Bull, who witnessed the NBPP thuggery in Philadelphia and reported on billy club-wielding Shabazz's election day boast: "You're about to be ruled by the black man, cracker."

In the fall of 2008, just days before he showed up to hector white poll workers, Shabazz told the Philadelphia Inquirer: "I'm about the total destruction of white people. I'm about

the total liberation of black people. I hate white people. I hate my enemy... The only thing the cracker understands is violence...

The only thing the cracker understands is gunpowder. You got to take violence to violence."

The desire to kill, subordinate and demonize white people is a staple of NBPP propaganda. An NBPP Trenton, N.J., chapter "block party" music video posted on YouTube calls on black followers to "bang for freedom," "put the bang right into a cracker's face," and "if you're going to bang, bang for black power ... hang a cracker ... if you're going to bang, bang on the white devil ... burying him near the river bank with the right shovel ... community revolution in progress ... banging for crackers to go to hell, we don't need em."

Chanting "Black Power," Minister Najee Muhammad, national field marshal for the New Black Panther Party, and Uhuru Shakur, local chairman of the Atlanta NBPP chapter, issued a pre-Election Day 2008 threat to "racists and other angry whites who are upset over an impending Barack Obama presidential victory." Said Muhammad: "Most certainly, we cannot allow these racist forces to slaughter our babies or commit other acts of violence against the black population, nor our black president."

That's rich, given that the only racists talking about slaughtering babies are the ones with New Black Panther Party patches on their puffed chests. If a Tea Party activist threatened to kill the babies of his political opponents, it wouldn't just be front-page news. It would be the subject of Democrat-led congressional investigations, a series of terrified New York Times columns about the perilous "climate of hate," a Justice Department probe by Attorney General Eric Holder, a domestic terror alert from Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, and another Important Teachable Moment Speech/Summit from Healer-in-Chief Barack Obama.

But with the racism shoe on the other foot, Team Obama and its media water-carriers are exhibiting the very racial cowardice Holder once purported to condemn. □

## How to boost confidence in the American economy

Did you happen to catch the Timothy Geithner interview on the PBS NewsHour this week? The United States Treasury secretary must have used the word "confidence" a dozen times.

And no wonder. Boosting the confidence of Americans in the US economy right now is critical to fend off a stalled recovery or even a double dip into another recession.

Consumer confidence is wilting under scorching headlines about slow job growth, debt jitters, and a lackluster stock market. After rising for three months, consumer confidence fell sharply in June.

Businesses are wary, too. They don't like new health-care and financial requirements. They're not sure what's going to happen to energy legislation and energy costs. They wonder what tax increases and/or spending cuts might lie ahead. Meanwhile, Washington has suddenly put a brake on more stimulus.

The country's spirits need lifting. But how do you do that?

One way is for Americans to balance bad news with encouraging signs. For instance, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) now forecasts that the world economy will grow faster than expected. This week it raised its 2010 global growth estimate to 4.6 percent. Emerging markets — China, India, Latin America, and even Africa — look strong.

Notice, too, that world financial markets have stopped hyperventilating over the Greek debt crisis. That's because European countries are taking action to (a) strengthen their currency, and (b) reduce deficits and debt.

And let's step back from the day-to-day headlines for a minute: The US economy has been growing for a year now (the IMF forecasts a 2010 growth rate of 3.35 percent). Jobs have increased for six months. Incomes are rising. And housing prices have been more or less stable for a long time.

One of the problems with confidence-building is

"the waiting game." Consumers wait for better job numbers before spending; businesses wait for more consumer spending before hiring.

But it's quite possible to break the habit of waiting for someone else to act. If businesses are discouraged by weak consumer spending by Americans, they can reorient themselves to export markets — and create US jobs in the process. President Obama could help here by aggressively pushing Congress to pass free-trade deals with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama.

If companies are discouraged by mismatched skills of workers, they can invest more of their profits in job training and community colleges (businesses are sitting on about \$1.8 trillion in cash as they wait for consumers to spend more). Americans, meanwhile, can do their own reorienting by moving to areas with better job prospects and by learning new skills. They can also look again at the skills they do have and sell them more creatively — on the Internet, for instance, or on a contract or freelance basis.

And even while "government" waits for this year's elections, politicians at the state and federal level can do what the country longs for: pledge to work across party lines to tackle long-term debt that is fueled by health-care and retirement costs.

It may look to many like a scary and risky time for the country. But it's actually full of opportunity. Mortgage rates are at a historic low, perfect for refinancing and improving a household's cash flow, or for buying a first home.

The stock market got you down? Remember that automatic 401k deductions are purchasing more shares at these lower prices — and investors looking to buy companies will find them more affordable.

Economic value originates in ideas, and America has no shortage of those. Now is the time to act on them. □



# Ingrid Betancourt presenta una acción de conciliación por 6,5 millones de dólares

Bogotá (EFE).- La ex candidata presidencial colombiana Ingrid Betancourt y su familia presentaron una acción de conciliación contra el Ministerio de Defensa para exigir el pago de 12.500 millones de pesos (unos 6,5

millones de dólares) por los perjuicios ocasionados durante su secuestro de más de seis años.

La emisora Caracol Radio, citando fuentes oficiales, señaló que la familia Betancourt presentó esa

solicitud por 12.500 millones de pesos, que incluyen los daños causados a ella, a su madre Yolanda Pulecio y a sus dos hijos. La familia Betancourt sustenta esa acción de conciliación en que varios oficiales del Ejército

el día de su secuestro, el 23 de febrero de 2002, le garantizaron que no sucedería nada y que no corría peligro el día que fue secuestrada por las FARC en una carretera del sur de Colombia. Fuentes del Ministerio de

Defensa señalaron a Caracol Radio que se recibió con sorpresa esa solicitud de la familia Betancourt. Los procedimientos legales señalan que en caso de no existir una conciliación entre el Ministerio de Defensa y la familia Betancourt, tendrán que pasar a una demanda ante un juez. La ex candidata presidencial fue secuestrada por las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) el 23 de febrero de 2002, junto a la entonces su compañera para la vicepresidencia, Clara Rojas.

Betancourt fue rescatada junto a otros 14 rehenes por el Ejército el 2 de julio de 2008, mientras que Rojas había sido puesta en libertad por las FARC el 10 de enero de ese mismo año.

## Eclipse total de sol se verá en sur de Chile y Argentina

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Los habitantes del sur de Chile y Argentina, así como los de algunas islas de los mares australes, estarán entre los pocos afortunados que podrán ver el eclipse total de sol del domingo.

A diferencia de otros eclipses solares recientes, este ocultamiento del astro sólo será visible en un estrecho pedazo del hemisferio sur.

La sombra lunar pasará a través del Pacífico Sur, oscureciendo los cielos

de las Islas Cook, Isla de Pascua y el sur de Chile y Argentina.

El espectáculo empieza al amanecer a unos 1.931 kilómetros (1.200 millas) al noreste de Nueva Zelanda. El momento cumbre del eclipse ocurrirá en mar abierto y durará 5 minutos y 20 segundos.

Jay Pasachoff, un astrónomo de la universidad Williams, viajó recientemente a la remota Isla de Pascua en Chile con un grupo de estudiantes para observar lo que será

su eclipse número 51.

Su proyecto era colocar telescopios para captar la imagen de la corona solar, atmósfera externa del sol, que habitualmente es invisible y aparece como un aura blanca durante el eclipse.

Científicos recomiendan que la gente use lentes especiales para ver el eclipse. El próximo espectáculo de este estilo será en noviembre del 2012 y podrá ser visto en el norte de Australia y el Pacífico Sur.

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